

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

MINISTER'S COLUMN— FAITH: What We are *Doing* in Volusia County

Just over 20 years ago when the Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper was the minister, our congregation joined with 30 other congregations and places of worship across Volusia County to create the FAITH organization. A leader in FAITH (Fighting Against Injustice Towards Harmony), Dr. Harper composed the prayer that some of you know by heart because we still recite it today when we adjourn our FAITH meetings and events:

We are called to **listen** to the commands to love and do justice. Our gathering this day reminds us of our responsibility to **work** with one another to **remake** our world into a more hopeful place of peace. We are inspired and guided to **hear** the cry of the poor and oppressed, and to **respond**. We know that alone we are limited in what we can do, but **together** we are powerful. Our strength comes from our unity. Grant us continued strength and sustenance. We ask all these things from You— whose spirit makes us one. Amen.

This prayer clearly articulates our call as members of UUCOB. As the action verbs in bold type indicate, we are called to action. While FAITH is an organization, a noun, I prefer we think of FAITH as a verb. FAITH is action. It transforms communities through the work of justice. We – you and I – are the doers. Without you and me and the thousands of others like us in the other member congregations of FAITH, we would not be able to change the root causes of injustice in Volusia County such as youth arrests which contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline, or a severe lack of affordable housing, which causes hardship and homelessness for many hardworking people in our community.

Despite COVID restrictions, we are having one of our most successful years yet – through Zoom meetings, we are once again in dialogue with Sheriff Chitwood and making progress on his commitment to increase Civil Citation use. We are having fruitful meetings with County Commissioners and city officials about establishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund at the county level. Despite the pandemic, we are doing good works!

What can we **all** do to empower and further our FAITH work? Show up for justice! Only when we show up in number do we have the power to change systemic problems. If you have not already, you will be asked to attend two events this month:

The FAITH Rally – March 1st 6:30 pm via Zoom – It's as simple as going to <http://www.faithvolusia.org/> and clicking the "Rally" button

The Nehemiah Action Assembly – March 22, 6:30 pm – It's as simple as going to <http://www.faithvolusia.org/> and clicking the "Assembly" button to attend via YouTube OR you can opt to attend in your car at the Drive-in Church in Daytona Beach Shores.

I hope you will say YES to attending the Rally and the Action Assembly this month. It has never been easier. You will be counted just by participating virtually. If you have not been asked to attend, please contact me for how to connect.

Yours in faith, FAITH, and Love,
Rev. Kathy



Spring Forward! Daylight Savings time begins on Sunday, **March 14th** at 2:00 a.m.

OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN – Learning Resilience

This past year has been one when all of us have been facing some fearful unknowns. In the following poem by Sarah Pham, I am struck by her thoughts and memories of the “unknown” so many years later. The author re-imagines a little girl who faced an unknown world, physical depravation, uncertainty of existence and yet survived. When she was eight years old, her mother, Diem Pham, was a Vietnamese Boat person. She spent ten days on a boat until she reached Malaysia where, after six months in a refugee camp, she came to the US. This is Sarah’s poem for her mother’ experience. (excerpt)

Even when alone,
Sea cradled your hurt
You — holding onto seaglass,
Your laughter brushed ashore,
Swimming into sunset,
You knew only this: love survives.

"Just as the sea has storms and huge waves, but if we're able to harness that energy and ride like the wave riders, the surf riders, we can come safely to shore and enjoy that ride."

So here, floating on salted waters, above shadow
In the places where freedom sails,
I find my mother.
Here, where sea meets shore,
Trauma and resilience converge.

We can gain much from knowing the struggles of others and learn from others how to manage our own uncertainties and pain. In this time of tragedy for so many in the world within and outside of our borders, we can take time to think of those who have struggled so to make a better life for themselves and their families. Many in our congregation have so generously given to the homeless, to foodbanks and to their own families, along with private donations that are kept inside their hearts during this time of need.

--Julie Hilburn

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

March 7th — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “Our Unitarian Universalist Theology”

Given our religious pluralism it may sound odd, but we indeed have a core theology founded in a covenant of care. Understanding this theology will help us live out more fully the values of our faith tradition.

March 14th — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “Celebrating “Women’s History Month: Mary Rice Livermore”

Mary Livermore (1820 - 1905) was a Universalist and extraordinary woman of her time. Her life’s work is worthy of our attention as we hold up the worship theme of “Commitment” this month.

March 21 Dr. James Shoopman, “The Duke’s Deficiency in Authenticity”

The Duke is none other than John Wayne, star of the movie *The Searchers*. The virtue of authenticity, as established by existential thinkers such as Kierkegaard and Sartre, is that by claiming the right to make decisions on our own, we make better decisions because we refuse to hide from our own responsibility for them. The problem with John Wayne’s character in *The Searchers* is that he refuses to recognize the agency of the young girl who should be allowed to decide whether to remain with the Native Americans or to return to the white world of her uncle. Dr. Shoopman will face off with the Duke as he explicates this situation.

March 28th — Rev. Kathy Rickey, “Ostara and Our Commitment to the 7th Principle”

We will be one week past the Spring Equinox, for many cultures a time to celebrate fertility, rebirth, and the coming fruits of the earth. Let us be reminded of our call to live responsibly within the biosphere that sustains all life on the planet.

April 4th —Rev. Kathy Rickey, “Between the Pandemic and a Prodigal Spring”

In the Northern hemisphere, this time of year can be a kind of cusp or liminal space between the dormancy of winter and the hyperactivity of life awakened in spring. As we wait for the pandemic to subside like the first thaw of spring, what are our hopes as we return to a new-normal life?

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/>

WOMEN AND RELIGION— Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Workshop

In 1977, the UUA General Assembly passed the Women & Religion Resolution, calling on all individual UUs and UU organizations to examine and put aside sexist assumptions, attitudes, and language, as well as to explore and eliminate religious roots of sexism in myths, traditions and beliefs. The impact of this resolution has been profound — ranging from the establishment of women’s spiritual retreats, to the rapid increase in the number of female UU ministers. It has prompted incorporation of more ritual, such as chalice lightings and “Joys and Sorrows” into our services, as well as the review and revision of our Principles and Purposes. Curricula celebrating the divine feminine have been developed, including Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.



“Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” is a woman-honoring adult RE curriculum by Rev. Shirley Ranck. It examines pre-Judeo-Christian cultures that may have worshiped the female as divine. The concepts of equality and reverence for the feminine in a religious setting are eye-opening to many participants. More than Goddess 101, this workshop series examines important elements of today’s women’s lives: personal, interpersonal and societal. It examines how our culture has been influenced by Judeo Christian values. The primary question— How would your life have been different if, when growing up, the divine had been imaged as female? Participants are encouraged to share their own experiences and beliefs. Many classes have continued to meet to take Part II of the class, to further explore ritual together, or to maintain the connections made in class.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven (Part I) is a five-session workshop for UU women and their female friends. We are gauging interest and preferences for timing. Please let Cathy Jackson (uucob@aol.com) know of your interest and availability so that we will set the dates times. The workshop will be held virtually, with potential for a final class in person, Covid-19 permitting. Workshop fee for materials for the class is \$10. Pre-registration will be required, once the dates and times are established.

--Cathy Jackson, Diane Jackson and Jan Taylor

THE ALLIANCE— Projects for March

The UUCOB Alliance has started meeting monthly on Zoom, most recently on February 11. At that meeting, Alliance President Jeanne Young reported that \$1,235 had been raised during January for Sophie's Circle. The money will be used to purchase pet food for the pet food bank through this local animal rescue organization.

During February and March, the Alliance will raise money for the Jerry Doliner Food Bank in Ormond Beach. Several Alliance members have agreed to **match** money donated by the congregation, up to \$1500. To contribute to this fund, send a check made out to **UUCOB Alliance** to the Alliance Treasurer, Linda Kalaydjian. (Linda's address is listed in the congregational directory.) We are also collecting donated food items for the **Jerry Doliner food bank at the UUCOB parking lot on Saturdays between 11:00 and 1:00**

In addition to working on this community outreach project, the Alliance has created a service team to help UUCOB members get Covid-19 vaccination appointments. Please contact Gaia Davies for more details. (See Gaia's phone number/email address in the directory) The Alliance will next meet on March 11. And don't forget the food bank on Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at our UU parking lot!

–Ellen Nielsen

FAMILY RENEW COMMUNITY—The Need is Even Greater Now

The climb out of family homelessness is steep under any circumstances. But congratulations to the families who have moved from homelessness to permanent housing in 2020, even amid the additional economic and social challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



As we know, childhood only comes once in a person's life, and no child should spend any of it caught up in family homelessness. Family Renew Community brings together religious congregations, businesses, civic and charitable organizations as well as individuals committed to solving homelessness in Volusia County. The program provides temporary housing and helps homeless parents on a path toward supporting their families in homes of their own.

Some 26 local families overcame homelessness last year with help from Family Renew Community. Here are some statistics about the families who ended their stay at one of the three local residential campuses in 2020:

- 18 of these families significantly increased household income during their stay with there
- a parent in in 20 of these families got more education or formal vocational training during their stay with Family Renew, boosting their lifelong earning potential
- 20 of these families substantially increased their savings in a bank account during their stay
- 22 of these families paid down debt or maintained no debt during their stay.

Every six months, Family Renew Community staff check on the housing status of every family who has moved on from their transitional housing since January 2017. When they checked in this past January, 96% of these 144 families had avoided a return to homelessness in the subsequent months and years.

Our own UU has been connected to Family Renew for the past thirty years. In fact, we are a founding member and a part of our annual budget helps support the organization. However, individual UUCOB members can add to that contribution by mailing a check to Family Renew Community, P.O. Box 250123, Holly Hill, FL 32125.

UU JUSTICE FLORIDA—The Florida Legislature on Education

Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida is supporting several proposals that are working their way through the Senate Education Committee before the Florida Legislature begins meeting on March in Tallahassee. Some already have a companion bill in the Florida House. Here are some of these proposals that are in the pipeline:

SB 886 - COVID-19 Impact on School Accountability (HB359) This bill would prohibit school grades, school-improvement ratings and student-performance results from statewide, standardized assessments during the 2020-2021 school year from being used for specified purposes.

SB 254 - Education It would require teachers to have earned a bachelor's degree; require private schools to provide students with recess; and require all students to participate in the statewide assessment program and all school buildings to comply with Florida Building Codes for Educational Facilities, etc.

SB 300 - Student Eligibility Requirements for State Financial Aid Awards and Tuition Assistant Grants

It would provide that, for purposes of receiving state financial aid awards, a student may not be denied classification as a resident based on his or her immigration status.

SB 772 - Required Instruction in the History of the Holocaust and of African-Americans (HB 105)

It would require school districts, charter schools, and specified private schools to offer instructions relating to the history of the Holocaust and of African-Americans.

SB 834 – Drinking Water in Public Schools. (HB 1257) This bill would require studies of the prevalence and effects of lead in drinking water in public schools.

To lend support for these efforts, go to <https://www.flsenate.gov/> to find your state senator and other information about contacting your representatives and encouraging them to support these initiatives.

Go to info@uujusticefl.org for more information.

WEBSITE TEAM UPDATE— Our New Website is Live

You can now checkout our new UUCOB website! The website address is <https://www.uuormond.info> and you can enter it in the URL box at the top of your browser to get to there. Some of us also found that we only had to enter **uuormond.info** in the URL box, and that worked just as well. Some others went to the old website and changed the address from uuormond.org to uuormond.info — simply deleted the "org" and replaced it with "info." Our old website will not have current information, as only the new website will be updated.

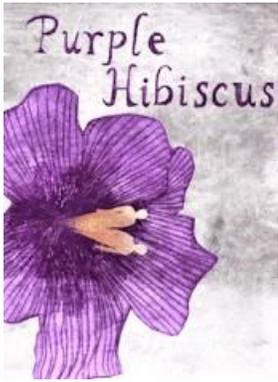
Some of us find that using the *Chrome* search engine works better than other browsers for the website. Kathryn Neel reminds us that you cannot yet find it by using a search engine, such as Google because it takes 30-45 days for the technology indexing to show it. The website team, now with six core members, continues to use a separate staging site to make changes and updates before adding new information to the live site. Although you can't really use the old website, the website team continues to use it to collect material that we want to be able to add or to archive.

As you have time to visit the new website, we welcome your feedback. Your ideas are inspiring! They guide us to the continually evolving changes for making it better. Everything is not completed, but we are "live" now on the Internet. Our team continues to make what changes we can, and we look forward to hearing more from you and to making improvements. For sharing your ideas, suggestions, and questions, please e-mail Julie Hilburn juliehilburn26@gmail.com and Ludy Goodson songsavor@hotmail.com as Julie and Ludy will consolidate the information and share it with the rest of the team. We thank you again for your willingness to take part in this important project for our church community!

RACIAL JUSTICE—Join Us on Zoom for These Interesting Life-Long-Learning Programs

Wednesday, March 3rd at 4:00 p.m.: *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie book discussion presented by Dan Gribbin

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220322109?pwd=ZEx4azFyWkkvNU9lVjh3MTNMYjUrQT09>



In her 2003 novel *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie takes us inside a well-to-do family in Nigeria during the period when the civil war has given way to a dictatorship. Adichie explores a number of tensions, beginning with the father's total rejection of traditional African religion (animism) in favor of a strict approach to Roman Catholicism within his family. The Igbo language is also spoken sparingly, in favor of English. The father's standards are enforced upon his son, daughter, and wife by means of excruciating violence, a regime which drives the children toward the shelter of their aunt's household, where thoughts can be freely expressed and where violence would never be tolerated. Told from the point of view of the daughter, *Purple Hibiscus* is a cry for tolerance and acceptance of individual expression that may well echo the tensions in the America that Adichie found when her family arrived here from Nigeria.

Wednesday, March 17th at 4:00 p.m.: *Between the World and Me* by Ta'Neheisi Coates book discussion presented by Dan Gribbin

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220322109?pwd=ZEx4azFyWkkvNU9lVjh3MTNMYjUrQT09>

Ta-Neheisi Coates is a biting critic of America's racial divide, a commentator with one eye on James Baldwin as he writes a letter to his son in his 2015 book *Between the World and Me*. The title derives from a poem by Richard Wright, another of Coates's obvious progenitors. One key tenet of his advice to his son is not to buy into the lie that success in America comes by aping the glittering lifestyle of white people. It's a venerable trope, this criticism of the alleged sellout perpetrated by the black middle class, and one worth scrutinizing as Coates develops it.

Wednesday, March 31st at 4:00 p.m.: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston book discussion presented by Dan Gribbin

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220322109?pwd=ZEx4azFyWkkvNU9lVjh3MTNMYjUrQT09>

In her 1937 novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston, a leading light of the Harlem Renaissance, documents the hard lives of women in Florida in the decades following the Civil War. The novel is set in the late 1920s, in Eatonville, but stretches back two generations to explore concepts of masculinity and femininity in the black community. When the heroine opts for a relationship with a drifter, they end up in the agricultural community along Lake Okeechobee in a classic example of "wrong place, wrong time"—the devastating hurricane of 1928.



Quotation for the Month

"I know as well as I know anything that the oppressor must be liberated, just as surely as the oppressed"

--Nelson Mandela

Calendar for March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm FAITH Rally: 6:30 pm via Zoom	2 Mah Jongg postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	3 Worship mtg.: 11 am-Noon via Zoom LLL Racial Justice: 4 - 5:30 pm via Zoom	4 Caring mtg. postponed Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm via Zoom	5 Potluck: cancelled	6 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am Alliance Food Bank collection: 11 am-1 pm
7 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N. Anon: 7-8 pm	8 Finance mtg.: 10:30am - noon via Zoom Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm	9 Mah Jongg postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	10	11 Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm via Zoom Democratic Club: 6:30-7:30 pm via Zoom	12	13 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am Alliance Food Bank collection: 11 am-1 pm
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N. Anon: 7-8 pm	15 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm	16 Mah Jongg postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	17  LLL Racial Justice: 4 - 5:30 pm via Zoom	18 Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm via Zoom Board of Trustees mtg: 5:30- 7 pm via Zoom	19	20 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am Alliance Food Bank collection: 11 am-1 pm Jotter articles due
21 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N. Anon: 7-8 pm	22 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm FAITH Action Assembly: 6:30 pm via Zoom or in your vehicle	23 Mah Jongg postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	24	25 Membership mtg.: 2:30- 4 pm via Zoom Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm via Zoom	26	27 Music rehearsal: 10-11 am Alliance Food Bank collection: 11 am-1 pm
28 Palm Sunday Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am both via Zoom N Anon: 7- 8 pm	29 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: via Zoom Yoga: 5-7 pm	30 Mah Jongg postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom	31 LLL Racial Justice: 4 - 5:30 pm via Zoom			

Upcoming Worship Services

Theme for March—Commitment

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
March 7--	“Our Unitarian Universalist Theology”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West
March 14--	“Celebrating Women’s History: Mary Rice Livermore”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West
March 21-	“The Duke’s Deficiency in Authenticity”	--Rev. James Shoopman	--Dan Gribbin
March 28--	“Ostara and Our Commitment to the 7 th Principle”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West
April 4--	“Between the Pandemic and a Prodigal Spring”	--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 <https://www.uuormond.info>

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Kyra Brokoph-3rd
 Dorothy Dobbins- 11th
 Cliff Jackson- 11th
 Martin Feigenbaum-11th
 Linda Sanders-15th
 Ron Melvin-22nd

Jaci Hanson-23rd
 Brenda Tart-25th
 Jim Hendra-26th
 Marilou McKemie-27th
 Robert Palmer-30th
 Beverly Berger-31st
 Caryl Koses-31st

The Jotter

March 2021

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

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RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel

Cathy Jackson: Office Administrator:



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Like us on Facebook:

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

Website: <https://www.uuormond.info>

Carolyn West: *Jotter* westwind273@bellsouth.net

Betty Green: *E-News* 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.