

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER—Our Welcoming Congregation

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a notice about the congregation's need to re-certify as a Welcoming Congregation which is the Unitarian Universalist Association's designation for a congregation that has taken the steps necessary to educate themselves on LGBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning) issues and are ready to welcome folks who so identify into our midst.



A number of years ago, we received our certification but are now being asked to refresh and update our welcoming skills. Many new terms and an expanded understanding of human sexuality has come about since our last certification. One of the most important aspects I've learned in recent years is that human sexuality and identity are not binary. To put it another way, heterosexuality was never really a norm, although it seemed to be in our society because anyone courageous enough to identify outside the seeming norm of heterosexuality has been and still is suppressed, oppressed, punished, shunned, beaten, and even murdered.

As Unitarian Universalists, we know the worth and dignity of every person. We have been able to look past our biases and prejudices, our norms and expectations in order to see the heart and soul of LGBTQ people. What we found were people no different in their joys and sorrows, struggles and triumphs, no different in their parenting, their work, what they value, and what has meaning for them. Their sexual identities and preferences have nothing to do with who they are as fellow human beings.

Yet as UU's, we need to deepen our understanding of human sexuality, including our own, regardless of orientation. As a congregation, we need to continue our education and continue building our skills in being a Welcoming Congregation. Most importantly, as a Welcoming Congregation we need to be accepting of people with sexual orientations which differ from our own. I ask that you open your hearts and minds to the LGBTQ community.

Therefore, I invite you to join the Welcoming Congregation Re-Certification Committee as we present films, workshops, worship services, and discussions on the true fluidity of human sexuality. The Re-certification Committee, approved by the Board as an ad-hoc committee consists of Brenda Tart, Rita Scheeler, Sara Rivers, Kathryn Neel, and me. We will soon be publishing dates, times, and places of the above-mentioned events. If you have any questions or concerns about the Re-certification programming, please email me, revk2rickey@gmail.com

Yours in faith,
Rev. Kathy

Upcoming Sunday Services—

August 27— Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, "It's Time to Talk About White Supremacy "

The rhetoric and violence surrounding recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia, call us to examine the phenomenon of white supremacy in our society. Naming White Supremacy as the fear and loathing which undergird structures of racism shines a light where it should be—on the perpetrator, not the victim. I propose that this reframing is the only viable path to healing our country's life-threatening wounds of the past.

Service Leader: Enda Nolan

September 3— Dan Gribbin, “Gatsby and the American Dream”

At a time when income disparity seems to have driven America’s politics further to the right than most of us are comfortable with, it seems fitting to consider F. Scott Fitzgerald’s work “The Great Gatsby” (1925), a fascinating tale in which the very rich, the nouveau riche, and the working class end up colliding tragically. We will also look at “Babylon Revisited” (1931), a short story in which Fitzgerald seems to be recounting the emotional and spiritual impact of his own fall from glittering grace in the Jazz Age.

Service Leader: Carolyn West

September 10— Rev. Janet Onnie, Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Kathy

Service Leader: Denise Carter

September 17—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, "Micah and the Second Principle"

Our congregation is a founding member of F.A.I.T.H., a local community action group. F.A.I.T.H.'s method of action is inspired by the biblical prophets Micah and Nehemiah. Let's explore how these prophets of old were calling their people to justice in the same way our Second Principle calls us to work for justice, equity, compassion in our human relationships.

Service Leader: Linda Kalaydjian

September 24—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “The Power of Story: Do Our Narratives Need Changing?”

In many ways, our personal narrative - the story of who we are and what we believe - is shaped by our family of origin and by our early experiences in life. These influences can profoundly affect how we see ourselves and how we view the world. How then would we rewrite those narratives in a way that allows our most authentic selves to shine?

Service Leader: Rita Scheeler

October 1—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Radical Hospitality”

Simply put, radical means we welcome and accept into our midst anyone, *anyone* who comes to our congregation's door. We are not there yet, but let’s look at some of the ideals of what it is to be truly, deeply hospitable to the world.

Service Leader: Jean Scott

SHARE THE PLATE— Great Kids Explorer Club

Since 2001 the Great Kids Explorer Club has remained steadfastly dedicated to helping our neediest schoolchildren succeed in school and in life. In partnership with local schools, Great Kids volunteers provide thousands of hours of tutoring each year to at-risk children, ages 5-12, free of charge. These volunteers also provide group activities that enhance character and an array of life-enriching social skills so desperately needed to avoid the pitfalls of growing up in today's challenging world.



Local statistics indicate nearly one-third of Volusia County children fail to meet the standard in reading and math. However, Great Kids continues to help children referred to their program achieve academic success, yet program administrative costs are low. Thanks to donors, these children experience much needed positive behavioral changes, and improved social and life skills as well. Your donation helps cover the cost of healthy snacks, transportation, teaching materials, cultural opportunities, etc. When the collection plate is passed on **September 17**, please be generous in your support for The Great Kids Explorer Club.

--Linda Kalaydjian

F.A.I.T.H. BEGINS WORK AGAIN ON SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

What keeps you awake at night? I'm not talking about a lumpy mattress— I'm talking about the issues, events or problems that you worry about. Maybe it's a member of your family who is addicted to pain killers or has a mental health problem. All of us have worries that bother us, maybe they don't keep us awake at night but we do wish there was something we could do to fix them.

F.A.I.T.H. (Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony) is looking for those issues that worry you. During the month of September, our UU F.A.I.T.H. team will hold a series of "cottage meetings" for our congregation, and other teams will do likewise for members of the other 31 area churches comprising F.A.I.T.H.

These meetings will be held in the homes of our UU members and friends. At these meetings, we hope to come together and get to know each other better while sharing experiences that illustrate problems in our community. We will consider five categories: Jobs, Crime/Drugs, Education, Health, and Mental Health.

These meetings are part of F.A.I.T.H.'s annual "Listening Campaign." They are how we gather information about the issues that people in our community are concerned about. Later this year, after we hear from you, we will select the more specific issues that F.A.I.T.H. will work on this year.

One of the "Ten Good Reasons for joining a Unitarian Universalist Congregation," is "Because here we join our strength with others to create a more just society." If you need more information, want to join in on a discussion or want to hold a Cottage Meeting, please contact me at leighsmontgomery@yahoo.com.

--Leigh S. Montgomery



OUR NATIVE PLANT MAKEOVER

As you drive by our UU building, you may notice our new native plant demonstration garden. Assisting Kurtland Davies in preparing the area were Green Team volunteers Dorothy Dobbins, Travis Gordon and Preston Garrison, as well as Amanda Attri and Leslie Sukija with their young daughters. Then Rene Luedke, owner of New Moon Natives, designed and planted the garden, filling in the front with low-growing, salt-tolerant native wildflowers like Tampa verbena, dune sunflower and creeping mimosa, where they will not obscure our sign. Behind them are

taller plants—necklace pod and fire bush, with a row of coontie in back. The garden was not specifically created as a butterfly garden, but in mid-August, we noticed busy pollinators hovering over the plants. When the larger plants are in full bloom, even more butterflies will come.

Our congregation has been recognized as a Green Sanctuary by the Unitarian Universalist Association since 2009. Originally, volunteers from the Green Sanctuary Team spent many hours removing invasive plants and performing other labor in order to preserve the dune hammock on the west side of the church. The UUA Green Sanctuary Program "invites congregations to build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues, encourage personal lifestyle changes, engage in community action on environmental issues, strengthen the connection between spiritual practice and Earth consciousness, and work to heal environmental injustices." Our newer native plant garden will help build such awareness while gracing us with its beauty. If you are interested in our Green Sanctuary, talk to Kurtland Davies.

--Ellen Nielsen

4th Annual UUCOB Marketplace Fundraiser Coming Soon!



Over the past three years, the Marketplace has generated over \$20,000 to support UUCOB's general operating budget, and we are pleased to announce initial plans for the 2017-2018 event.

This year's MARKETPLACE activities will kick-off on Sunday, October 22 and continue through Sunday, November 12. We invite our members to offer "services, special meals, and events for purchase. The Marketplace table will be open at the Sunday, October 22 & 29 services for members to pick up Donor Forms for use in indicating the services, meals, parties, or events they wish to offer. The forms are also available on the UUCOB website. The final day for submitting your Donor forms will be Sunday, October 29.

The Marketplace's Purchase tables will be open following services on Sunday, November 5 and 12. The final day for making purchases for your favorite services and/or events will be Sunday, November 12. All notices and invoices will be submitted to those making purchases no later than Sunday, November 19.

This year, we will be providing additional information to members who purchase events and services to ensure that their events, meals, and services get onto their calendars. Thus, all events, meals, and services offered will need to have a specific date for the item on the completed Donor sheets when they are submitted. There will be no live auction or dinner associated with the Marketplace fundraising event this year. All information, including items available for purchase, will also be posted on the UUCOB website along with weekly progress reports as the event unfolds.

Begin now to think about that exciting meal, party, outing, or other event that you would like to contribute to this year's event. We always need additional services – such as power-washing, small repair jobs, driving services, music lessons, concerts, etc. – so there is much that all our members can contribute in order to make the Marketplace a success and generate needed funds for our Congregation's operating budget. This year's fund-raising goal for the Marketplace is an ambitious \$8,500, so everyone's support and participation will be most needed, welcomed, and appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to and supported the previous Marketplace fundraising projects. We are excited about the 2017-2018 event and encourage all our members to get involved. Thanks to all of you who give so generously to our great community of faith and caring! For information, or to discuss a possible meal, event, or service idea, call us at (386) 265-1715, or e-mail us at SBGarrisonSBG@aol.com

--Preston & Susan Garrison

OUR WELCOMING CONGREGATION



"We know that religious spaces haven't always been welcoming places for all people, especially when it comes to gender and sexuality. We are out to change that." These are the first words you see when you look up Welcoming Congregation on the UUA website.

In the past, the UU Congregation of Ormond Beach has been certified as a Welcoming Congregation, and now is the time to re-certify. Starting on Oct. 22, 2017 Reverend Kathy will kick off the beginning of our re-certification process with a sermon on sexuality.

We, the Welcoming Congregation Committee, are planning a series of activities (movies, Q&A series, dinners and other events) as part of the process of becoming a Welcoming Community once again. We invite you to join us in the exploration and fun of becoming a more open and Welcoming Community.

--Kathryn Neel

LIFE LONG LEARNING— Program for September

The Life Long Learning programs for 2017 will be varied and include topics related to philosophy, history, spirituality, archaeology, and education. Each program includes time for audience questions and comments. Excepting holidays, programs are usually scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

“From Enlightenment to Romanticism”— 4 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27th

Dan Gribbin will lead a discussion of how the success of the scientific method in the 17th Century gave rise to the notion that Reason and the Laws of Nature could profitably be applied to society in an effort to improve, perhaps even perfect, the lot of humankind. Sir Isaac Newton and other followers of the Enlightenment’s Age of Reason tried to determine what we might call the Laws of Society and to apply them to our betterment. However, around the time of the French Revolution, there arose a significant backlash against the notion of the omnipotence of Reason, a movement which came to be known as Romanticism. It would exalt Imagination over Reason. Ralph Waldo Emerson and others regarded Nature as a marvelous, organic process to be apprehended by human Intuition rather than being dissected by dry Reason. Though born in the glow of the Enlightenment, the United States, with our breathtaking landscapes and our ready opportunities for individualism in thought and action, would become a ripe field for the evolution of Romantic thought.

Retired after 37 years of college teaching, Dan spent much of his career as Professor of English at Ferrum College in Virginia, teaching writing, film, and a variety of literature courses. During the past decade, he taught African-American Literature and American Literature at the University of Central Florida. He and his wife Martha live in Daytona Beach Shores and are members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ormond Beach, where he serves as co-chair of the Worship Committee.



SUMMER PROGRAMS — SUMMER VOLUNTEERS!

During the summer, we have enjoyed Sunday morning services that included many of our members and friends. Thanks to all for participating!



Love Showed Up Today in Charlottesville

by Rev. Susan Fredrick-Gray, UUA President -- August 12, 2017

Today was a tragic day. We came to Charlottesville to bear peaceful witness but were met with hate and racist violence. My heart has been broken, and I am deeply troubled by what is happening in this community and across this country.

Torches held above banners of hate are a familiar image from American history, but I had never witnessed it in person until last night on the University of Virginia campus. The racist parade marched right by St. Paul's Memorial Church, Charlottesville where an incredibly powerful standing-room-only worship service with people of all faiths and all colors came together in song, spirit, and blessing. Rev. Traci Blackmon told the story of David and Goliath, which is what it felt like on the streets of Charlottesville.



Clergy and faith leaders block entrance to Emancipation Park

This morning, the faith leaders that were called here by Congregate C'ville went to Emancipation Park to block the entrance and prevent the Unite the Right rally from taking place. The message was clear – to stand with the community to say that hate has no place here. The white nationalist protesters we faced chanted Nazi slogans like “you will not replace us” and “blood and soil” in between anti-Semitic, sexist, and homophobic slurs. They wore Nazi emblems and carried pictures of Hitler. They wore “Make America Great Again” hats and held pictures of the President of the United States. And they had automatic weapons, paramilitary uniforms, shields, and clubs.

We expected to be arrested for blocking the park because the protesters had an event permit that had been affirmed by a judge’s order. But as the day began, it was clear the police were not going to intervene – that they were not prepared to keep the peace as clergy and the community bore witness to the power of love that leaves no one out. The message seemed clear – as it has been for some time. White supremacist groups are being given permission to act violently without repercussions, and this was on display in Charlottesville. They had their guns and shields. We had our songs, our faith, our love. And we had each other.

White supremacy is not new in this country, but its renewed boldness is. Today, Charlottesville was the front line of a battle against oppression that includes American militarization at home and abroad, the criminalization of entire communities, and the belief that violent power makes righteousness. It is time for people of faith and conscience, for anyone who is committed to a vision of the Beloved Community, and especially those of us who are white, to show up -- and to continue to show up -- forcefully and nonviolently for love and justice. We must unite against white supremacy, neo-Nazism, and fascism.

I am so proud of Unitarian Universalist clergy and lay people for witnessing courageously on the side of love. Our faith calls us to resist violent extremism. We must liberate ourselves from the paradigms of dominance and hierarchy that are destroying lives, communities, and the planet. Fear and hatred corrupt our humanity and cut us off from the spirit, from the holy, from goodness and beauty, and possibilities of creation. Only love can truly confront this corruption that puts our democracy, our liberty, and personal safety at risk. Love is more powerful than any weapon, even when it doesn’t feel that way. The faith and the courage of our ancestors in movements of resistance and liberation show us this truth.

Today was a tragic day, a day that ended in the loss of life and in a city left reeling. We lift in our prayers the family of the person who lost their life, their community, all the people injured and traumatized by the events - especially my siblings of color, people of Jewish faith and ancestry, and those who identify as transgender, queer, lesbian, gay and bisexual - and the city and community of Charlottesville. And too – we lift in our hearts a prayer that for all those whose spirits have been distorted by fear and violence – that they may come to know the capacity for love in their own hearts and spirits. As a people of faith, it is this overflowing, deep abiding love that must guide us to show up again and again for justice, for inclusion, for dignity and humanity.

September 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Pot Luck: 6 - 8:30 pm	2 Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
3 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	4 Labor Day	5 Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	6 Worship Mtg. 11 am -noon Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	7 Caring Mtg. 10-11 am Democracy Now: 10:15- noon Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	8	9 Geho Gold workshop 9 am-7 pm
10 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	11 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	12 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	13 Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	14 Democracy Now: 10:15- noon Finance Mtg. 10:30 am-noon Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	15 Exploring Metaphysics: 6-7 pm	16 Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
17 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am (Share the Plate offering) Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	18 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	19 Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	20 Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	21 Democracy Now: 10:15- noon Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm Board Mtg: 5:30-7 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Equinox Celebration 7-9 pm	22	23 Conscious Aging 2-4 pm
24 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	25 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	26 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon Woman’s Group 1-2 pm Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	27 Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Guided Meditation: 7-8:30 pm	28 Democracy Now: 10:15- noon Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	29	30 Work Day 9 am-noon  VOLUNTEERS Conscious Aging 2-4 pm

Upcoming Pulpit Presentations

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
August 27:	"It's Time to Talk About White Supremacy"	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Enda Nolan
September 3:	"Gatsby and the American Dream"	--Dan Gribbin	--Carolyn West
September 10:	Pulpit Exchange	--Rev. Janet Onnie	--Denise Carter
September 17:	"Micah and the Second Principle" Share-the-Plate Offering with Great Kids Explorer Club	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Linda Kalaydjian
September 24:	"The Power of Story"	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Rita Scheeler
October 1:	"Radical Hospitality"	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Jean Scott

September Birthdays

Sue Sanghi – 2 nd	Carole Cappalli-18 th
Renny Roker – 6 th	Patty Tugas-18 th
Jeanne Young -9 th	Kurtland Davies-21 st
Morris Carter -10 th	Brian Bielick-28 th
Phil Green -11 th	Marilyn Dockter-28 th
Lorell Remington -11 th	Barbara Sandberg -28 th
	Bob Sherer-29 th



The Jotter

September 2017

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

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 Children's' RE on Sunday 10:15 -11:45 a.m.
 Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Service: 10:30 -11:30 a.m.