

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER— Be Well and Stay Well



My sign-off on correspondence these days is my wish for you to “be well and stay well.” Implied is my hope for you to be in a state of contentment and good health and to preserve your well-being by taking good care of yourselves. Doing so might include staying close to home, or it might include washing your hands often when you must venture from home or even donning protective masks and gloves. Being well and staying well might mean foregoing favorite pastimes like dining out or going to the cinema. It might mean being bored or getting cabin fever. It might mean

adjusting to being 24/7 with domestic partners. It might mean being alone. They say pet dogs love this new reality of the constant presence of their people while pet cats hate it.

In short order, our lives have been profoundly changed by a microorganism possessing the power to stop our human industry in its tracks. COVID-19 is keeping us home, keeping us isolated, rendering us unproductive, and throwing our mighty economy into recession. On the other hand, our carbon footprint has been dramatically reduced. With the exception of toilet paper and nonperishable foods, our over-consumptive habits are dwindling. In Wuhan, China, the air is clean again. In Italy, people are singing to each other from open windows. Our human relationships are taking on new dimensions of connection— not through physical proximity but through an expressiveness which requires thought, intention, and careful communication.

As we move forward as a congregation into the thick of this pandemic, let us be well, stay well, and stay connected. We cannot be together physically, possibly for months to come. Therefore, we must be intentional about staying in touch with each other by phone, electronically and/or virtually. Already, we have completed one live-streamed worship service via YouTube on March 22. Our congregational leaders are creating calling trees to help us stay in touch with each other. We will be experimenting with a video conferencing application (Zoom) to conduct meetings remotely. Be sure to check your e-mail often for announcements and messages about how to stay connected with UUCOB and with one another. Without you, there is no UUCOB!

A final note— as you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, we will continue to have worship services every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. via live-stream or video conferencing. You will need a computer device such as a desktop, laptop or iPad with Wi-Fi. Each week by e-mail, you will receive a new YouTube link that will allow you to join the Sunday service electronically as it is happening. However, if for some reason, you cannot join our virtual service live at 10:30 on Sunday morning, you can also find the link and watch the streaming or video conference on our UUCOB website. It will be archived there so that you can access the service for several weeks afterward. Stay tuned for more details.

These are extraordinary times. All of us will need to make adjustments, learn new skills, and learn to operate just a little bit differently in the world. We can endure this, taking it one day and one step at a time.

Be well and stay well.

Yours in faith and love,
Rev. Kathy

UPCOMING PULPIT PRESENTATIONS

March 29— Rev. Kathy Ricky, "Befriending our Fears"

The sage Hafiz said, "Fear is the cheapest room in the house. I'd like to see you in better living conditions." In these days of uncertainty, it's easy to let our fears get the better of us. Let us make friends with our fears so that we may live a bit more easily.

April 5— Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, "What They Dreamed Be Ours to Do"

Let's take a look back at the "Miracle on Halifax," a story of vision, determination, and sense of abundance which brought our beautiful building and grounds into being.

April 12— Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, "Easter in the Time of COVID 19"

The month of April marks the holy days of the three Abrahamic Religions: Passover, Easter, and Ramadan yet we will most likely remain in isolation well into May or June. How will social distancing and the pandemic forever change our religious traditions?

April 19— "A Virtual Flower Communion: Words of Wisdom from our Congregation"

Please e-mail Ellen Nielsen a "flower"—a 100-word or fewer description of something that has brought you comfort or inspiration during this difficult time. Send it to ellennielsen@att.net by Wednesday, April 15th and Ellen will create an anthology to be presented during the April 19th live-streamed service and available on our UU website. Another way to share our flowers!

April 26— Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, "As the Spirit Moves"

By this date, I anticipate significant changes in our social reality which has been turned upside down by the Corona pandemic. Let's see how those changes have played out in our lived experiences.

Although we will NOT be meeting in person as a congregation for these Sunday services, they will be live-streamed on YouTube each appropriate Sunday. Please join us and tune in then.

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

THE ORIGINAL FLOWER COMMUNION:

The flower communion service was created by Dr. Norbert Fabian Capek, who founded the Unitarian church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special flower communion service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time, he had felt the need for a symbolic ritual that would bring people more closely together. The format had to be one which would not alienate any who had forsaken other religious traditions. The traditional Christian communion service with bread and wine was unacceptable to the members of his congregation because of their strong reaction against the Catholic church, which they saw as having aided and abetted their suffering. Thus, Dr. Capek turned to the native beauty of their countryside for elements of a communion which would be genuine to them. This simple service, a success that was repeated every year, was centered around an exchange of flowers.

Dr. Capek was arrested by the Nazis and killed in Dachau concentration on October 1942. He was charged with listening to radio broadcasts and "high treason." As is the case so many times in human affairs, his treason was reaching out to his fellow citizens and helping them be their highest selves as the world was closing in on them, just as it seems to be closing in on us today.



—Ellen Nielsen

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Stay Safe and Healthy

Dear Congregation,

These are turbulent times for mankind. The whole world is experiencing an epidemic comparable to a medieval plague. How frail mankind is in the scheme of things! One can truly say that we are a part of the Interdependent Web of All Existence (for both good and bad) as news from all over the world informs us that so many people are suffering from this terrible virus. Perhaps this time, mankind will learn from history about the frequent appearance of unexpected challenges cropping up to disturb our lives.

I remember the polio epidemic in the late-1940's—early 1950's that spread fear around the world. Many of my school friends suffered from polio. Some spent the rest of their lives in an "iron lung" as we called it then. Some died, and many others were left with handicaps that made their lives difficult. Children— my siblings and I among them— were afraid of who would be next. Those of us who survived have scars we will live with for the rest of our lives. What we children called the "sugar cube" vaccine was indeed a blessing, and later the Salk Polio vaccines were developed which helped us all heal from the trauma and fear of that period.

No doubt we will have a vaccine for the coronavirus COVID-19 in the near future, but until then, please heed the guidelines from our UUA as well as local and national experts. Remember to keep your six-foot distance from other people and carefully and frequently wash your hands.

You are my community, and I want you to stay safe and healthy. I want the same for you as John Dewey stated back in the first part of the 20th Century:

**"What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child,
that must the community want for all of its children"***

Sincerely,
Betty Green

* Source: *The School and Society & The Child and the Curriculum*

FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE— Taking Care of Yourself and Others

I'm trusting that you are taking precautions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please follow the Center for Disease Control guidelines and the advice of our own Unitarian Universalist Association, that also recommends social distancing. See the message from our UUA president Susan Fredrick Gray at <https://www.uua.org/>

Many people think they are not going to get the disease, so they continue their daily lives when they may actually be making the situation worse. Do we want to stay home and curtail our usually active lives? Of course not! But we are looking at facts— you may be a carrier while not necessarily showing signs of illness.

So, let's focus on self-isolation to lower the chances of our own infection, or should we become infected with the COVID-19 virus, we don't spread this disease. Evidence shows that in those infected areas where individuals went into self-isolation, there were fewer infections and a shorter outbreak time.

We are fortunate to live in this lovely climate and be able to go outdoors. So, take a walk, have lunch outside with a friend or neighbor (at a distance!) or read a book on the deck. We have much to be grateful for.

--Joyce Nelson

THE ALLIANCE—Taking an Unwelcome Break

With regret and sadness, the Alliance will not meet for the months of April and May. Hopefully we will begin our regular meetings starting in the month of October.

Here's wishing everyone a Spring and Summer filled with hope and good health. Let's take care of each other and check in with our fellow UU members to make sure everyone is safe and being helped during these difficult times.

--Jeanne Young, Alliance President

JOAN THATE (1940-2020) —A Message from Her Son Joey

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been part of my mom's life. She will be greatly missed. We'll be planning a memorial service for Joan in Florida in upcoming months when it's safe to travel and to gather together again. Meanwhile, please visit the page below to share your pictures, memories and stories. You can also share this link with others:

<https://www.forevermissed.com/joanthate/about>



With love . . . and be safe,
Joey Thate

COVID-19 — Supporting Our People and Our Communities through the UUA



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

In this time of national crisis, the Unitarian Universalist Association is working alongside our congregations, and supporting our UU religious professionals and administrative staff, who are leading our communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact is widespread, but some will be hit harder than others.

Gifts to the **UUA's COVID-19 Pandemic Response** allow our UU faith community to financially support those religious professionals and communities for whom the pandemic will create the greatest need.

Grants will be awarded via the **Disaster Relief Fund** to congregations partnering with local organizations to provide assistance in their community to people who are at significant risk to health and livelihood because of COVID-19. Grants to meet the extraordinary financial needs of ministers, and religious professionals, and congregational staff impacted by COVID-19 will be disbursed through the **Living Tradition Fund**.

Please donate today and join in our appreciation for those who are impacted even as they continue to lead. Your support of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response is a concrete way to show support for the staff and communities that are most impacted by this health emergency: <https://giving.uua.org/covid-19>

April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Worship mtg. Postponed Choir practice: Postponed	2 Caring mtg.: Postponed Democracy Now: Postponed Alliance: Postponed Spiritual Growth: Postponed	3 Pot Luck: Cancelled	4 Life-Long Learning w. Rev. Ted Mashburn: Postponed
5 Discussion Group: Postponed Sunday Service: YouTube Tai Chi: Postponed N Anon: : 7-8 pm	6 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: Postponed Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	7 Mah Jongg: Postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	8 Life Long Learning: Postponed Choir practice: Postponed	9 Writers Group: Postponed Finance mtg: Postponed Democracy Now: Postponed Spiritual Growth: Postponed Democratic Club: Postponed	10	11
12 Discussion Group: Postponed Easter Sunday Service: YouTube Tai Chi: Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	13 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: Postponed Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	14 Mah Jongg: Postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	15 Bhagavad Gita Postponed Choir practice: Postponed	16 Democracy Now: Postponed Spiritual Growth Postponed Board of Trustees mtg: by teleconference	17	18
19 Discussion Group: Postponed Sunday Service: YouTube Tai Chi: 4-5 pm Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	20 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: Postponed Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm Jotter articles due	21 Mah Jongg: Postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	22 Life Long Learning: Postponed Choir practice: Postponed	23 Writers Group: Postponed Democracy Now: Postponed Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Spiritual Growth: Postponed	24	25 Work Day: Postponed
26 Discussion Group: Postponed Sunday Service: YouTube Tai Chi: 4-5 pm Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	27 Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: Postponed Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	28 Mah Jongg: Postponed Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm Postponed N Anon: 7-8 pm	29 Choir practice: Postponed	30 Democracy Now: Postponed Spiritual Growth Postponed		

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

Upcoming Worship Services

Theme for April – Liberation

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:
March 29	-- "Befriending our Fears"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey
April 5	-- "What They Dreamed Be Ours to Do"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey
April 12	-- "Easter in the Time of COVID 19"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey
April 19	-- "A Virtual Flower Communion"	--Ellen Nielsen and the Congregation
April 26	-- "As the Spirit Moves"	--Rev. Kathy Rickey

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April Birthdays



The Jotter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

April 2020

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 RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel
 Children’s RE is cancelled for April.
 Discussion Group is cancelled for April.

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