

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER—

Have I told you how much I enjoy being your minister? No? Well, I do. And because of the high esteem in which I hold you, I want to give you the best experience of worship I can.

I'm sure you've noticed some changes in the order of the service and, coming up in the December 4th service, there will be a few more. The Worship Committee and I are making these changes to enhance the quality of our Sunday morning services. I hope this new ordering will improve the flow and keep us running on time. Here is a recap of what you can expect:

1. The accompanist will begin playing prelude music at 10:25 a.m. which will be your cue to make your way to the sanctuary and your seats.
2. At 10:30 a.m. Dan Kerr or another song leader will begin with our usual gathering hymn, a short, easy tune intended to be sung without hymnal in hand.
3. After the gathering hymn, all will be seated and the announcements will follow. Then the service leader will sound a note or two on a new chime purchased for the purpose. The chime will signal the beginning of worship – considering things of worth - and entering sacred space.
4. Rev. Kathy will recite the Call to Worship. After that, the order of service will remain as it has been.
5. However, at the end of the service, we are going to switch the Postlude and Benediction. In other words, when the Postlude music begins, the service leader and Rev. Kathy will proceed to the back of the sanctuary, listen to the Postlude from there. Rev. Kathy will recite the Benediction from the back of the sanctuary.

Now I must ask each of you to do your part in ensuring a good worship experience for all who are gathered. For the sake of good flow and good timing, I ask that you observe the following:

1. No announcements should be made from the floor. Try to plan ahead and submit your announcement in writing to Cathy Jackson for inclusion in the program insert. If that's not possible, please write out the information and submit it to the service leader 15 minutes before the prelude music begins.
2. Concerns and Joys – a few guidelines:
 - a. Please gather your thoughts before taking the microphone and be brief – four or five sentences should be plenty;
 - b. Please limit your sharing to personal experiences that are of deep and personal concern to you.
 - c. Please do not make announcements during concerns or joys. If you are giving information like an event, an address, a time, or a date, then you are making an announcement. If you want to disseminate that kind of information to the congregation, please try to use the Jotter, the weekly emailed announcements, or the program insert.

I appreciate each and every one of you and thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding joys and concerns and announcements. The order of service may take a little more tweaking before we get it just right, but remember we are doing this for the enjoyment of all.

Yours in faith,
--Rev. Kathy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—We Are Still Here

It has been quite a year, hasn't it? For many of us, it's been a year during which we have been confronted with events requiring us to face things that have shaken up normal life, both personal and communal. In the midst of a disturbing, negative, and seemingly interminable election campaign, Hurricane Matthew blew in with the power to knock down huge trees, leaving piles of debris that are finally disappearing into wonderful mammoth trucks that haul out of sight those constant reminders that we are never really safe. "Hurricane brain" came to describe how we felt about both. The times seemed out of joint, to paraphrase Shakespeare.

But we are still here—not totally unscathed, true—but so ready to resume a quieter life. And for this we are grateful, and with each day, more ready to assign ourselves a deeper dedication to our values. And, as we watch with horror at what is happening on this shared earth to Aleppo, parts of Africa and India and New Zealand, we know down deep how truly lucky we are, even when it's hard to feel it sometimes.

I know I am grateful for the genuine concern the UU "family" has displayed for each other and for the spontaneous way so many have pitched in and helped bring things back to relative equilibrium. I'm grateful for the resilience that keeps us moving forward.

If this year has re-taught us anything it is the lesson that we must care for and love each other in all our imperfections and through our inevitable, inescapable difficulties. Maybe we can celebrate the holiday season with a quieter, deeper gratitude and joy because we have been tested and, once again, come back. We are still here.

--Joan Thate

THE ALLIANCE – Our Christmas Giving Project

The Alliance voted to adopt 16 teenagers from two foster homes for our Christmas Giving Project. For the third year in a row, we are providing Christmas gifts to children who live in foster homes due to physical violence in their own home. Accomplishing this project is a challenging goal. In order to raise funds for this project, the Alliance will be selling Christmas crafts after Sunday services in December, and all the money collected will be used to buy gifts, as well as the Share-the-Plate collection on Sunday, December 18. We will also have a Christmas cookie sale that Sunday. Our soup lunch in January will also help us to pay for the Christmas project. Please do some Christmas shopping with us and enjoy a wonderful way to support these teenagers while getting your shopping done early!

We will soon be putting up our Christmas tree in the front of the church. We will again be decorating our tree with new socks to be donated to the Domestic Abuse Council shelter in Daytona Beach. Last year, our congregation donated more than 300 pairs of men's, women's and children's socks to this mission. Please be generous and help make this project a big success--buy colorful socks to make our tree look festive and fun!

The Alliance recently made a special donation of \$500 to the Second Harvest food bank. The food bank is in great need at this time due to giving out a lot of extra food due to Hurricane Matthew.

A group of our UU members will be going out for a Holiday dinner on Christmas Day at the Shores Restaurant on the beach. If you would like to join in the fun, sign up in the back of the church. For the month of December, the Alliance has changed its regular meeting time and place due to the rummage sale conflict. So we will be meeting on **Thursday, December 1st at 11:30 a.m.** We are always looking for new members so I hope to see you then.

--Jeanne Young

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

December 4th — Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Gratitude: A Birth Story”

Rev. Kathy tells the story of the birth of her first child and what broke her heart open to joy and gratitude.
Service Leader: Linda Kalaydjian

December 11th —Rev. James Shoopman, “Christmas Spirit or Christmas Madness?”

While the commercial drive to buy more than we can afford for everyone on our “list” is a kind of madness that can inflict real self-harm, it can also be a celebration of the remarkable human capacity for joyful generosity. If you must go broke, there are worse ways than by showering those around you with gifts, so long as they are sincere expressions of love and appreciation.

Service Leader: Cliff Jackson

December 18th —Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey and Deb Hanson, Intergenerational Service

December 24th —Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, Candlelight Christmas Eve service: 5-7 p.m.

December 25th —Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “A Story of Expectation”

Sophia Lyons Fahs, 20th century Unitarian educator said this about the nativity: "Each night a child is born is a holy night." Rev. Kathy will recast the Christmas story as a contemporary one emphasizing the extraordinary that can be found in the ordinary.

Service Leader: Carolyn West

January 1st —Ellen Nielsen and Harry White, “Social Justice Issues for 2017”

Congregation participates with members of our newly revitalized Social Justice Committee will share perspectives on some specific issues that will deserve our attention during the new year.

Service Leader: Ellen Nielsen



When You Receive That End-of-the-Year Solicitation

In December, we receive those welcome Christmas cards from friends, but our mailboxes are also stuffed with letters from charities begging for money. The pressure is on to beat the IRS tax deduction deadline. But how can we judge the worthiness of these causes? How do we know that our contribution will actually help? Maybe a lot of it will go to “administrative expenses” -- i.e. to pay a Fat Cat CEO a big salary? We should check with Charity Navigator, which ranks a charity with other similar ones. For example, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), which works for human rights and social justice around the world, ranks even higher in terms of putting dollars into action than Human Rights Watch. Check on your charity before you donate and consider donating to UUSC.

F.A.I.T.H. IN ACTION—Working Together to Serve Our Community

The Problems Assembly was the first of four major meetings of F.A.I.T.H.’s area-wide efforts to understand and resolve social problems in our community. Over 300 people from 19 area congregations came together at Allen Chapel AME Church to select the chief issue for research and community action in the year ahead. Eighteen members of our Unitarian Universalist Congregation attended and participated in voting to select one of four issue areas to focus on during the coming year. Participants chose Mental Health/Addiction with a total of 138 votes out of 313. (Nine of our 18 members voted for this issue.)

The Healthcare, Homeless, and Youth Criminal Justice Committees reported on their recent research. The Healthcare Committee will continue to monitor the free health care clinic at Halifax Hospital every six months to see that the problems which have been corrected this past year remain intact. This Committee was headed up by Dave Archard from Our Lady of Lourdes. Kudos to this Committee for all their hard work. The Homeless Committee will continue working to get a 24/7 come-as-you-are homeless assistance center built in Volusia County, with upcoming scheduled meetings with newly elected officials. With the assistance of Catholic Charities, the committee now has a business plan ready for presentation.

Youth Criminal Justice Chair Ron Smith of Coronado Methodist Church outlined a strong agenda for the coming year, including positive action in the Florida Legislature where supporters will introduce legislation to standardize statewide the use of civil citations for minors who commit non-violent crimes instead of criminal charges and arrests.

The Research Kick-Off was held November 17 where the committees met for the first time in the new cycle. Participants from our UU included Roger Patterson and Dan Kennedy, who joined the new Mental Health/Addiction Committee. In addition, Jean Scott, John Horner and Harry White joined the Youth Criminal Justice Committee; Tom Hilburn, Bill Ternent and Leigh Montgomery will sit on the Homeless Committee. To get involved in or learn more about FAITH, contact me at leighsmontgomery@yahoo.com.

--Leigh Montgomery

SOCIAL JUSTICE – Join in Working for a Better World

Our UUCOB Social Justice page membership has grown to 25 participants. We have sent another 91 members an invitation to join and participate in identifying and discussing sixteen issues identified by UUA and our UUCOB members as important social justice concerns. Human trafficking, the death penalty, domestic violence and police body-camera use have received the most discussion/interest. Our action plan is to make a short presentation on these four very important issues at the January 1, 2017 Sunday service. We need your participation and support to make a difference on these important social justice issues. Please join us, add the issues important to you, participate in the discussions, and help us work on an action strategy.

I've heard that some are concerned about Facebook security and privacy, and I appreciate those concerns. Facebook provides features that allow you to protect yourself online. For privacy and security information as well as instructions for securing your account, check out <https://www.facebook.com/about/basics/>. You determine your level of privacy and security. You can even choose an alias to protect your privacy.

Our UU Congregation of Ormond Beach Social Justice Facebook page is a "CLOSED" page that can only be accessed by members who have been invited and/or approved by the page administrators, so please let me know that you would like to be included.

--Harry R. White

LIFE LONG LEARNING— Program for December

Life Long Learning programs for 2016 have been varied, including 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.

Book Discussion: *In Defense of a Liberal Education* by Fareed Zakaria -- December 14th

Joan Thate, a teacher with more than 40 years in education, will lead a discussion of Fareed Zakaria's book *In Defense of a Liberal Education*. The *New York Times* review described it as "an accessible, necessary defense of an idea under siege." The book, a fast read, begins with Zakaria's own educational story, defines and gives the history of the idea of a broad education in all the major academic disciplines, identifies what each contributes not just to a better world, but— just as important—to a better life. He identifies the problems besetting liberal education today, and offers ideas of how these might be overcome.

We will watch Zakaria give a short speech to the 2014 Sarah Lawrence graduating class that summarizes his book, and then open the floor for discussion. You'll have an opportunity to purchase a used book at UU, or find a new copy, as it is widely available in bookstores or online.

--Dan Kennedy

Let's Read a Book Together!

Next month, Rev. Kathy will present a sermon series on the experience of African-American people in today's United States. The book *The New Jim Crow: Colorblindness in the Age of Mass Incarceration* by Michelle Alexander will be the subject of the sermon on January 8, 2017. Alexander's study of the criminal justice system provides an excellent background for the complex and intersecting issues of structural racism in our society today.

Reverend Kathy invites all who are interested to read *The New Jim Crow* not only to give deeper understanding to her sermon series, but also to participate in a series of facilitated discussions on the book. The discussions will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon at UU on three Saturdays, January 14, 21, and 28.

Alexander's book is available through many media outlets including Amazon, Kindle, Audible, and Google Books. Let Rev. Kathy know if you have questions or problems attaining the book.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—December Notes from the Back Room

Here we are in the thick of the holiday season. When we have just four classes a month, the holidays speed past. It seems like we were just trick-or-treating when the children collected contributions to UNICEF. We were pleased to send this international children's organization \$100. We also followed a tradition from Day of the Dead honoring our losses with each student planting a flower. Michelle taught us how to make pumpkins from plastic containers. For Thanksgiving, we finished decorating the recycling container with leaf stencils, just in time to clean up from the feasting. For December, we will focus on Hanukkah, with the class working on a play for the Intergenerational Service. We are creating a special present to a special person. Since it is a surprise, we can't say any more except that it involves block printing with the children designing and carving their blocks. Included in our busy schedule is our curriculum, *Signs of Our Faith*, with discussions on our UU covenant and principals. Hope everyone enjoys the holiday season as we look forward to a new year.



--Debbie Hanson

MARKETPLACE COMING SOON—Kickoff on December 11th

The Third Annual UUCOB Marketplace fundraising event is coming soon! Over the past two years, the Marketplace has generated over \$16,000 to support UUCOB's general operating budget, and we are pleased to announce initial plans for the 2016-2017 event. We invite our members to offer "services" and "events" for purchase as we have done previously. Dinners, parties, tickets to special shows or concerts, gift certificates, concerts, pressure washings, and boat rides were among the popular items offered last year.

For donations, the Marketplace table opens at the Sunday, December 11 and 18 services for members to pick up a donor form for use in indicating the services, meals, parties, or events they wish to offer. Donor forms are also available on the UUCOB website. The final day for submitting your Donor Forms will be Sunday, Dec. 18.

For purchases, the Marketplace's Purchase tables will be open following services on Sunday, January 8, 15, and 22. All information, including items available for purchase, will also be posted on the UUCOB website along with weekly progress reports as the event unfolds. The final day for making purchases for your favorite services and/or events will be Sunday, January 22. All notices and invoices will be submitted to those making purchases no later than Sunday, February 5.

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, 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.



Thanks to everyone who has contributed to and supported our previous Marketplace fundraising projects, giving so generously to our community of faith and caring! For this year, to talk to us about a possible meal, event, or service, email us or call us at 352-759-2697.

--Preston & Susan Garrison

FALL RUMMAGE SALE—Clean Out Your Closets and Get that Car back in the Garage!

The UU fall rummage sale will take place on **December 9 and 10**. Now is the time to plan for the items you will donate. Drop them off at UU on **Thursday, December 8**, between 8 am to 4 pm if possible. Please be sure that your items are clean and in good condition, with suggested prices if you can determine them.

We need many volunteers all that day to help with unloading, sorting and pricing. Jewelry can be brought in sooner, for help with pricing. Donation receipt forms will be available for you to fill out. If you need help getting your things to the UU building or advice about storing them with a fellow UU until December 8, call Cliff Jackson at 677-7687 or e-mail: reelseeker@aol.com

We also need extra card tables or long tables if you can loan them. Please bring them Thursday, December 8 and mark them with a masking tape underneath that says "not for sale" and your name. Volunteers are needed for helping at the sale on Friday and Saturday. Hours are 8 am -- 4 pm on Thursday and 8 am -- 2 pm on Friday and Saturday. Cleanup of our sanctuary is important Saturday afternoon. We especially need strong helpers to get leftover items ready for removal, on Saturday afternoon. Please sign up for part or all of any of the three days, using the sign-up sheet on the table. We are going to bring our own lunches, and we usually bring extra to share with each other.

--Cliff Jackson

December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Caring Mtg.: 10 -11 am Alliance: 11:30 -2 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	2 Friday Potluck: 6-8:30 pm	3 ADL annual mtg.: 8:30 am- 4:30 pm Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
4 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service & New Member Recognition: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	5 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	6 Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	7 Worship Mtg: 11 am –noon Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm	8 RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP: 8 am-4 pm Finance Mtg: 10:30am –noon Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	9 RUMMAGE SALE: 8 am-2 pm	10 RUMMAGE SALE: 8 am-2 pm
11 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	12 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	13 Writers Group: 10 am –noon Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	14 Life Long Learning: 4-5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	15 Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm Board of Trustees Mtg: 5:30-7 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	16 Exploring Metaphysics 6-7 pm	17 Celebration of Life for Natalie Dix 2-4 pm Subud Mtg: 6-9 pm
18 Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	19 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	20 Mah Jongg: 10 am –noon Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Jotter articles due	21 Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm CUUPS: 7-9 pm	22 Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm Winter Solstice celebration: 7-8:30 pm	23	24 Candlelight Christmas Eve service: 5-7 pm
25 Christmas Day Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am Tai Chi: 4-5 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	26 Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	27 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	28 Choir Rehearsal: 6-7:30 pm	29 Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm N Anon: 7-8 pm	30 People’s Church 6:30- 8:30 pm	31 New Year’s Eve

Upcoming Services

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
Dec. 4--	“Gratitude: A Birth Story” New Member Welcome following the Service	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Linda Kalaydjian
Dec. 11--	“Christmas Spirit or Christmas Madness?”	--Rev. James Shoopman	--Cliff Jackson
Dec. 17--	Celebration of Life memorial service for Natalie Dix Williamson (2 to 4 pm)		
Dec. 18--	Intergenerational Service Share-the-Plate with the Alliance Christmas Giving Project	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey and Deb Hanson	
Dec. 24--	Candlelight Christmas Eve service (5 to 7 pm)	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey and the Congregation	
Dec. 25--	“A Story of Expectation”	--Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey	--Carolyn West
Jan. 1--	“Social Justice Issues for 2017”	--Ellen Nielsen, Harry White and the Congregation	



December Birthdays

Judy Gordon -6th
Kimberly Park-13th
Ann Awdey -15th
Evan Rivers -15th
Don Kennedy -26th



The Jotter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

December 2016

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 Cathy Jackson, Office Administrator: (386) 677-6172
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 Carolyn West: **Jotter** Editor (386) 672-9352
 Website: <http://www.uuormond.org/>
 Children's' RE on Sunday 10:15 -11:45 am
 Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 am

Sunday Service: 10:30 am