

*We are a welcoming congregation freely seeking intellectual and spiritual growth.
We strive to create a larger community of peace, justice and love.*



Connecting Points

UU 101

Each time the membership committee puts on an orientation for those who are interested in membership or who just want to know a little more about our congregation, we start by focusing the attention back on the participants. We go around the circle and ask each person to share their journey—the chain of events, spiritual and otherwise, that brought them to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples.

There are two reasons why we start this way. The first is that in sharing our sometimes joyful, sometimes humorous, sometimes difficult stories, we connect right away on a deeper level creating instant community. It's not surprising to find that the folks who go through an orientation together often create a longer-term friendship that stays rooted in the congregation.

The other reason for starting with spiritual journeys is to underscore the diversity of experience and belief makes up a UU congregation and let people know they are encouraged to talk about their faith. We have members and friends who have Jewish roots or come from a strict Catholic upbringing; there are folks here from just about every Protestant denomination and some people here were not brought up in a faith tradition at all; we've got secular humanists, religious humanists, and mystical humanists; we've got atheists, agnostics, theists and deists; We've got UU-Buddhists and UU-Christians and lots of hyphenated UU's in between. We believe there is strength in this diversity and joy in sharing an ongoing journey towards truth and meaning, and we believe that we have a responsibility to act out our beliefs in the wider world.

Once we're done with our sharing, the orientation continues with some UU history and theology, a bit about the story of UUCGN, a little about our organizational structure, and the basics of what membership means. Because these last pieces often get short shrift in the time allotted for orientations, it's always been a goal to offer some more substantive sessions on these basics that would be open to all members. And, so, we are offering this month a three-part UU101 course that hopes to fill in some of the gaps in all our understanding about this strange and quirky faith that honors the questions even more than it does the answers. And don't worry, there will still be plenty of time to share our experiences!

If you're interested – look a little deeper in the Newsletter for the details.

Blessings,

TONY

The Promises We Make

This year our students in Religious Exploration have been exploring our 7 Promises or Principles which are:

RED: RESPECT all beings.

ORANGE : Offer **FAIR** and **KIND** treatment to all.

YELLOW: Yearn to accept and **LEARN** about ourselves, others, and mystery.

GREEN: Grow by exploring what is the **TRUE** and **RIGHT** in life.

BLUE: Believe in our **IDEAS** and act on them.

INDIGO: Insist on freedom, **JUSTICE**, and peace for all beings.

VIOLET: Value our home and **EARTH**, which we share with all living things.

These are the seven promises of Unitarian Universalism.

On Sunday, May 22nd our RE program will share the journey of their year with you in an their Annual End of year service. Please join us for this celebration of all that we are as UU's.

PARTY PARTY PARTY!!!

Following the May 22nd service the parents will have a planning meeting and the students will have a PARTY from 12-1 pm. We need adults from the congregation to plan and supervise our students at this fun party. Please contact Heather, DRE to volunteer to support RE in this way.

SUMMER SUNDAYS WITH OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Support our students & families!

Strengthen our Community!

Connect with our future!

Each summer from June - August we invite you to be a guest teacher, activity leader or an assistant with between 5 - 10 students ages 5 - 15 from 10:30 - 11:30 on a Sunday in the RE wing.

Some ideas of what you could do:

Lead an activity

Tell a story

Do an art project

Create a UU experience

Play games

Do an experiment



Call or email DRE Heather Desrocher to sign up (dre@uunapels.org or 239. 785.4590).

Beyond Sunday

Will be held on the following Wednesday evenings this spring from 5:30 - 8 pm :
Come for Vespers or dinner or discussion/activity or come for the entire evening.

May

Wednesday

4

Dignity Dinner

All Ages Discussion & Activity:

PRIVILEGE

Led by the Rev. Tony Fisher

Children's Free Play

With Ms. Leticia

May

Wednesday

18

Adult Discussion:

DEMOCRACY

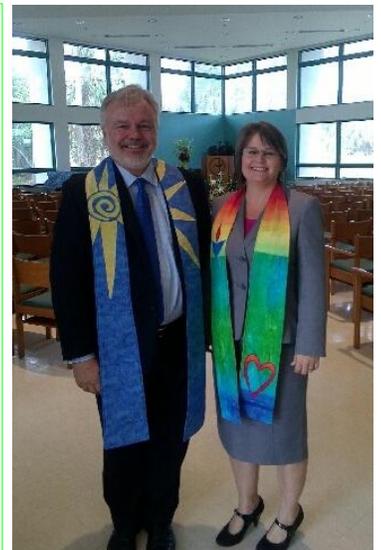
Led by the Rev. Tony Fisher

All Ages Activity:

ART

Children's Free Play

With Ms. Leticia



Service led by our own Rev. Jennifer Dant and Rev. Roger Grugel

Alcohol Policy

The need for a clear and public policy for UUCGN regarding alcohol use on the campus has been brought to the Program Council by the Youth Religious Exploration Committee. In order to finalize this policy we want your thoughts and are therefore scheduling an “open discussion meeting on this issue May 1 at 12:00 noon following the morning service. We will consider the following questions:

- How does alcohol consumption at this UUCGN event further the mission of our congregation?
- How are we creating a welcoming space for all, including youth, sober members and friends, and those who have to drive?
- Is having alcohol present at our event going to prevent members and friends from being fully present in our beloved community?

Please plan to attend or submit your input to Kendra Hermans.

Upcoming Services

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

This month's theme: Vision

May 1: “Our Whole Lives” – The OWL students and facilitators

The OWL students tell the story of their year and celebrate this important right of passage.

May 8: “Does Unitarian Universalism Have a Future?” – Rev. Tony Fisher

The trends tell us that people are moving away from organized religion. While avoiding a significant drop in membership, Unitarian Universalism hasn't been able buck the trend completely and there aren't that many of us to begin with! Where do we go from here?

May 15: “Una Vision de los Derechos Humanos” – Rev. Tony Fisher

In “A Vision of Human Rights” Rev. Tony Fisher will report on his journey to the Arizona border and the lessons learned from a second trip to the wall separating the United States and Mexico.

May 22: “Our 7 Rainbow Promises,” Religious Exploration End of Year Service – Heather Desrocher

The students and teachers of our RE program will present their annual service celebrating another successful year of building new UUs!

May 29: “Memorial Day Service” – Rev. Tony Fisher

Respecting the honor of those who have died in service to our nation while still holding to a vision of peace and love leads many of us into that sometimes uncomfortable space between reality and hope. It's not necessarily a bad place to be.

Unitarian Universalism 101

Join Rev. Tony Fisher and friends on three consecutive Thursday evenings to explore the history, theology, structure, and vision of our Unitarian Universalist movement and of UUCGN. The sessions will be interactive and will hopefully lead to a deeper understanding of who we are, how our organizations work, and what we are called to do as UUs.

Thursday evenings **May 12, 19, and 26** at 7:00 – 8:30 PM in Thomas Hall. Please call the office to sign up.

UU Book Club

All are welcome. Please call Joann Anthony

May 5: Open discussion of the book selections for the 2016-17 season and other recommendations.

IRA Provision Extended

Congress made permanent the IRA Charitable Rollover which allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate directly from an IRA to UUCGN with no tax consequences on that part of your required minimum distribution. The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70½ or older.
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000.
- The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts).
- The funds must be sent directly from the IRA custodian to UUCGN.

Check with your tax advisor but it may save you some tax dollars by paying your pledge commitment or making a gift to the Endowment Fund.

Upcoming Events

First Friday

May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Monique Bondeux and Robin Petty's Home

Aging Wisely

The **Aging Wisely** group will be meeting Tuesday, May 3, 7-8:30 p.m. *Aging Wisely* is a monthly gathering for women which focuses on various aspects related to the aging process. All women are welcome regardless of your chronological age. You do not need to commit to coming every month. We begin with a check-in, brief reading and then break into small groups for discussion. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this program, feel free to contact Ann Fisher . **Alternate Aging Wisely** is at 12 pm on the Patio on Thursday, May 12 for those who can't make the night meeting.

Aging Wisely Exercise Program - No meeting May 5!

AW Exercise Program meets every Thursday at 11. This is a CO-ED gentle exercise program that is adaptable for anyone regardless of your physical limitations. This exercise group is **OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN**.

Film Fans

Film Fans will meet on Monday, May 16 at Hollywood 20 in the late afternoon to see a movie TBD, and share a light meal afterwards. For information and updates contact Robin Schrage

Circle Dinners - May 20

Circle Dinners are a great way to get to know each other in a small intimate environment. New members and visitors, we would love to meet you too. Everyone is invited, we hope you will join us; our dinners are always fun and easy. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for the Circle Dinners. What is Circle Dinner? It is dinner where an entrée is prepared by a host/hostess in their home, for a party of 6-12. what are you to bring: one of these, appetizer, soup, salad, bread, vegetable, dessert; as requested by the host/hostess, and whatever you would like to drink. If you have questions or suggestions, or want to sign-up, give us a call or email, Once you are signed up a host/hostess will call or email you to let you know where you will be dining and what you should bring. We always meet on the 3rd Friday of each month. We look forward to getting to know you better; Marjorie & Sal

DAWN

DAWN is returning. The first dinner of "Dining Around the World in Naples" will be held on Friday, May 13 at Zen Asian BBQ. Zen is located at 10823 Tamiami Trail, Naples: 239-260-7037. It is in a strip mall at 108th and RT 41. Since Zen is new and already very popular, we will meet at 5:30 pm. We are limited to 25 attendees so e-mail jlinfla@comcast.net or call Joan Looney if you'd like to attend. Deadline for signing up is May 8 or whenever quota is reached. Menu: www.EatatZen.com.

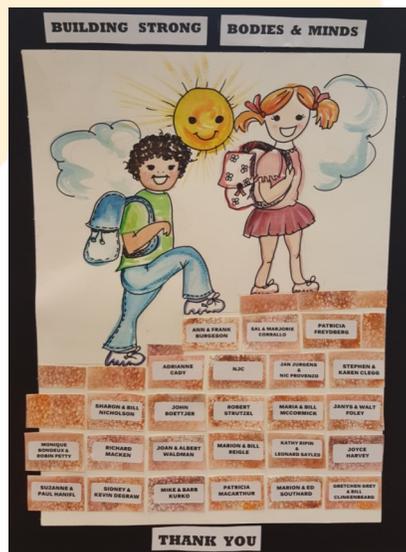
Exciting Art Group at UU !!

About "Art in the Garden" - An enthusiastic, creative group, " beginners "and experienced artists meet in the beautiful church garden on the last Saturday of each month. We paint or draw from 10:00 to 12:00 in the medium of choice. We have also photographed the garden and based our work on our photos. Our painting session is followed by a discussion of the day's work. We love to share techniques and ideas. Participants contribute \$20. each session---a donation to U.U. The group is limited to 10 people. If you would like to join us on May 28 please contact Rona Steingart for more information.

Social Justice Committee News

UUCGN Weekend Meal Program Needs You!

Our Goal is to sponsor 41 children and we are more than half way there. The April Split the Plate offering benefitted meals for 2 children. For \$250.00 you can supply a weekend meal bundle consisting of 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners for one child for entire school year. Send a check to the UUCGN office if you would like to participate. Indicate WMK on the memo line of your check. Call Ann Burgeson for more information. Ann Fullarton designed a sign acknowledging the sponsors, on view at the Social Justice Table...Thanks to all



LGBTQ



For all the LGBTQ community here at UUCGN and friends that would like to participate, there is a new sub-committee forming within the Social Justice Committee, and we'd like your participation. This new sub-committee will focus on all LGBTQ issues, strengthen our bonds within the congregation and help to make a difference in the greater community. We will begin by helping to create our June Pride Month service scheduled for June 5.

Next on the agenda will be re-certifying our "Welcoming Congregation" status.

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10 at 2pm.

We will be working with Tony Fisher that day to create our Pride Service. And we will also discuss the goals and aims of the committee. Your ideas and concerns are welcome, as we develop this new outreach.

All that are interested should contact Steve

Social Justice Committee Seeking Volunteers

Our purpose is to put into action the mission of our congregation: *to strive to create a larger community of peace, justice and love*. We reach beyond the walls of the church to build a strong spiritual interconnectedness within our congregation and with our community. To partner with others to achieve social justice goals, raise awareness and form common cause to fight injustice, intolerance and inequality.

Active sub-committees are:

Weekend Meals for Kids

Green Sanctuary/Environmental Issues/Earth Day Service Racial Justice & Awareness/NAACP/MLK Parade/

Book Club LGBTQ Pride/PFLAG

Reproductive Rights/Health & Wellness Advocacy Immigration Advocacy

Monthly Split The Plate Offering

Annual Charity Fundraiser

Why You May Want to Volunteer

- Take an active part with others in the congregation to live your values.
- Learn what's going on in the community and join forces to combat racism, intolerance, discrimination and ignorance.
- Build a more diverse, open and compassionate community.
- Lend your skills as teachers, business people, as caring and understanding individuals to help organize and solve the social and environmental problems of our day.

Please email Pam Gharabally to volunteer for a sub-committee that interests you.



Cypress Cove Conservancy Land Acquisition

Mission: To purchase and preserve land in Southwest Florida which provide the needed habitat for listed and endangered species. As more lands are rezoned for development, large amounts of habitat areas are disappearing, setting an imbalance of this fragile eco system. Many people feel helpless to do anything, but together we can make a difference. The land targeted for purchase is 200 acres in South Eastern Collier County, (30 minutes from Downtown Naples) it is a well known wildlife crossing area of endangered animals, and rare species of plant life. You could really make a difference in preserving our paradise for future generations. Go To: <https://startsomegood.com/cypresscoveconservancy> for more information.

Annual Charity Fundraiser

It was a privilege and a great joy to present a check to Collier County NAACP President Harold Weeks and NAACP Education Programs Director David Hinds in the amount of \$19,500.00, on behalf our UUCGN family. The proceeds of our Annual Charity Event for the Collier County NAACP Education Fund on April 2 were beyond our expectations, because of the generosity of our congregation, given in the spirit of compassion, commitment to social justice and solidarity with our NAACP community. The check was presented during our April 24 Sunday service. Mr. Weeks and Mr. Hinds each shared a few words, and the congregation responded with grand applause afterwards. Thanks again to all that made this a successful event.

Next year's dinner, slated for April 1, 2017 will have a similar format and the same committee members: Steve Espinosa, Social Justice Committee



Cheryl Duey creating her custom potted succulent arrangement for the lucky bidder benefiting the NAACP Children's Education Fund.

Sold out performance of Some Enchanted Evening

May Birthdays & Anniversary

Happy Birthday

Roger Brown
David Cousineau
Michael Moran
Bill Reigle
Dick Sharp
Joan Waldman



Happy Anniversary

Jennifer Mattson & Lou Bavaro

Happy Belated Birthday

Diana Werth

Have we missed you? If you would like your birthday or anniversary to appear in the monthly newsletter, please contact the office

Calendar



To view the full and updated calendar please visit our website or [Click Here!](#)

UUCGN Orientation Series

For those who would like to find a way to connect and learn more about our congregation and for those who may be ready to join, please contact Anna Riazzi in the office, (239) 455-6553, office@uunaples.org to sign up for the next orientation.

Menaker Lobby Art Gallery

Julie Siler Olander

• Website: www.juliesilerolander.com

Artist Statement: My work is about color, form, and light which reflects things I am drawn to in nature, be it fruit, flowers, shells, the ocean, a marsh or the woods. I have always lived near the ocean, which may account for my desire to paint it, and whatever meets it at the shore all over the world. Because it is so challenging, I also like to paint still life and technically difficult pieces, such as glass or people. I draw each piece after doing a value sketch.

I paint color “as I see it”. Design is very important in my work, which begin almost abstractly, and, gradually, become more realistic. For the last 15 years, I have concentrated on watercolor. However, in the past several years, I have also returned to oil and acrylic. Each one offers me unique problems and possibilities, but always a challenge to be conquered.

Julie’s Bio: Julie Siler Olander holds a Master’s Degree in Art and in Museum Studies, and has received international recognition during her 30 years of painting and teaching in various mediums. She taught at the College Level in the Boston Area, and continues to teach here in Florida. Color and form are Julie’s primary interests, as well as the way light affects objects in landscapes or still life. She has studied oil painting with Charles Sovek, Sam Barber, Paul George, Robert Douglas Hunter, and Greg Biolchini; her watercolor studies were with Janet Rogers, Ron Ranson, Peter Spataro, Charles Reid, Frank Webb and others.

Julie has participated in prestigious groups such as NE Watercolor, Southwest Florida Watercolor Society, The Center for the Arts Bonita Springs, Naples Art Association and the Portrait Society of America; she is well respected for her fine watercolors, acrylics and oils. Julie’s paintings are consistently selected for juried shows, where she has won many ribbons. Julie also served on the Art Committee at UU Barnstable, MA and helped develop their shows. Ms. Olander’s work has been shown at the De Cordova, the Danforth, Duxbury and the Fuller Museums,, Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, as well as, Boston City Hall, and internationally in Cornwall, England and St. Petersburg, Russia. Her works are in numerous art collections across the USA, Africa, Europe and Russia and as far away as the islands of Tahiti and Mauritius.

Julie is a past member of the Big Arts, Allied Artists, Ft. Myers Art League, Alliance for the Arts to name a few. She is a member of the “21 in Truro” Group of Cape Cod, which has been featured at the Cahoon Museum, the Cape Cod Museum, the Truro Historical Society Museum, Falmouth Artists’ Guild, and Provincetown Museum on Cape Cod and the Duxbury Museum. Julie’s work was selected for the “National Women’s Exhibition, Spring 2001,” at the Impact Image Gallery in Buffalo, New York.

Ms. Olander’s works may also be seen by appointment or online at www.juliesilerolander.com.

For private lessons or workshops,

Ms. Olander is also available as a juror for art shows.



Happy Mother's Day



Tasks for our Sexton?

As you can imagine, work requests for our sexton, David Bosworth, come from many directions and cover a variety of tasks. In an attempt to help prioritize David’s short fifteen hours per week, I am asking everyone who needs something done, whether it is a one time thing or a regular scheduled event, to fill out a **work order** (available in the office) or to call Anna in the office and provide your request over the phone. Please do this as soon as you are aware of your need so that we can get it on the calendar and ensure that your request is fulfilled. Thanks so much! – Rev. Tony Fisher