



Naples UU News

September 2019

***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

Go Out into the World in Peace



I was totally surprised and overwhelmed by the celebration at the end of this past week's service honoring our five years together in ministry! For those of you who weren't there, the benediction I offer at the end of the service was put to some new music by our composer friend Bill Dawson (at Ann Fullarton's request!) and the choir sang it right after I had delivered the words to the congregation.

My eyes teared up and I suspect a few others were as well. No doubt, you will get to hear the composition often when the choir is officially back in session and sings to close out our services this coming season. It is beautiful!

What a wonderful tribute! Thank you!

And I did mean what I said, "*our five years together* in ministry!" While I continue to be extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served as your minister for the last five years, I am more grateful for all of the talent and treasure *and effort* you put in everyday to make the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples a very, very special place. We really do work well together!

Now for the disclaimer! Though I have written about this before, I want to be sure everyone knows that the benediction that I share at the end of most services is not my own, but was adapted from First Thessalonians (and a few other scriptural sources) by the Rev. Gary Smith who served the Concord, Massachusetts congregation for twenty-three years before his retirement in 2011. It was penned during a time of anxiety for the congregation and to this day the congregation says the words together at the end of every service. Concord was the site of my two-year, half-time ministerial internship and I came to love the benediction during my time there. One the good-by gifts I received when I left that congregation was the benediction done in calligraphy by one of the members. It hangs on the wall to the left of my desk here in Naples and serves to keep me centered.

Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage.
Hold on to what is good.
Return to no person evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the suffering.
Honor all beings.

Thanks again, and blessings,

Sunday Services at 10 am

Theme: Expectation World Religion Focus: Judaism

September 1: "Justice, Equity and Compassion" – Rev. Tony Fisher
A service celebrating Labor and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)

September 8: "Ingathering Service and Water Ceremony" – Rev. Tony Fisher & Mary Borland, DRECE
An all-family service to celebrate the start of another New Year!

September 15: "What Do You Expect?" – Rev. Tony Fisher
What do you expect from Unitarian Universalism and what does it expect from you?

September 22: Guest Speaker – Rabbi Howard Herman
Rabbi Herman leads the Naples Jewish Congregation that meets here at UUCGN

September 29: "The Soul of the Whole" – Rev. Tony Fisher
Transcendentalist roots in the ancient mystical traditions and their impact on Unitarian Universalism.

Forum - Sundays at 9 am

September 22: Dr. James Douglass, PhD, Assoc. Professor of Marine & Ecological Studies
Coastal Marine Habitats – Red Tide and other threats

September 29: Bill Korson, Retired teacher and Johnathan Tuttle, Pres.CC Education Assoc
“Vouchers – a threat to our Public Schools in Florida and in the Nation”

October 6: Dr. Kevin Aho, FGCU Prof. of Philosophy - “The Authentic Value of Aging”

October 13: Kelly Cowan, Ph.D. - Educator, Author, and founder of a large non-profit

October 20: Donna Kordek - Guardian Ad Litem Program - “1,458 children abused and neglected in Florida”

October 27: William Clinger, former Congressman (PA)

“How Gerrymandered Congressional reapportionment is undermining Democracy”

Sunday Schedule Reminder

As summer winds down, at least on the calendar, we'd like to remind you of upcoming changes in our UUCGN Sunday schedule.

- ◆ Our current service from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. will continue throughout the rest of the church year and likely beyond.
- ◆ We will add a second service starting on Sunday, November 3. This service will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ In between the two services will be a 30-minute communal hospitality time, from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. so participants at both services can gather with friends and extend a welcome to visitors.
- ◆ Youth Religious Exploration Sunday programming will meet at 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted by the weekly email.
- ◆ Forum will begin meeting again this month, taking place from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. starting on Sunday, September 22, 2019 and running through May 10, 2020. Forum will include a 35-minute presentation followed by 10 minutes for Q&A. Speakers will also be available from 9:45 to 10:00 a.m. for a more leisurely conversation on the pavilion.
- ◆ On the last Sunday in April, April 26, we will return to only one service, at 10:00 a.m., which will continue at least until the end of the Collier County school year (and most likely beyond)



Hymn Notes



We are getting a new piano for the sanctuary! The vintage 1908 Steinway was generously given by Jeannette Boucher to UUCGN. The piano is undergoing restoration, and I am looking forward to playing it in Sunday services soon. The Music Committee is extremely grateful to Jeannette for this wonderful gift.

On Sunday, August 25, the choir sang the Benediction, set to music by William Dawson, who has served as pianist for the congregation in the past. The piece was commissioned in recognition of Tony's five years of service as your minister. I am in debt to Ann Fullarton, William Dawson, and members of the choir who sang for the occasion. Also, thank you to those who helped keep it a secret from Tony until the last moment!

With all the wonderful musical things happening, you may wonder if you can help enhance Sunday services. Join the choir and you will enjoy camaraderie & fellowship, not to mention the reward of making music together.

The children's choir will be starting on Sunday, September 9, immediately after the 10 am service. The adult choir rehearses on Thursday from 6:30-8 pm, starting October 17. If you have any questions, I can be reached at music@uunaples.org, or text.

Music Subcommittee Volunteers Needed!

The music committee is seeking volunteers to form a sub-committee. Our purpose would be to explore diversifying the music at UUCGN. Also, to assist with the planning of a future musical event(s) at UU such as a folk music coffee house. If you are interested, please email Ellen Rubin at .



Youth Religious Exploration

This month Youth Religious Exploration will be exploring the Soul Matter's theme "Expectation" as well Judaism (one of our six Unitarian Universalist Sources of wisdom is: Jewish and Christian Traditions). Below are notes about September's Activities:

Note: *2nd graders meet in the Beatrix Potter Room (formerly the Playroom) on Group days and have the option to attend Chapel or Family Services as they are ready (or wish to be with their Families)

Sept. 1 (Labor Day Weekend) **at 10:00am: PreK-2nd*** meet in Beatrix Potter Room (formerly the Playroom), **3rd grade & up: Start directly in Thomas Hall for CHAPEL,**



Topic: The Power of We - Stories of the powerful not triumphing because we stick together.
Songs: One Voice and Common Thread

At 11:30-1pm - Middle & High School youth: meet in Thomas Hall for Creating/Painting Set design for Mystery Party

Sept. 8 (Water Communion Service) **At 10:00am: PreK-2nd *** (Beatrix Potter Room) Learning from Water's Push & Pull. **3rd grade and up:** Start directly in the SANCTUARY and STAY for the Water communion service. **Note: Bring a bit of water** either from, or representing, your summer travels to add to the common bowl. Clipboards & Crayons will be in a bin as you enter the sanctuary, fidget objects up front (right side) of the sanctuary for use during the service, as needed.



11:30am to 12:30am: Middle & High School youth: start directly in Thomas Hall to create Publicity for Mystery Party, and if needed script read through for any new characters. And **Youth Religious Exploration Meeting in Blue/Yellow Room (in YRE Wing)** Topics: Youth Ministry: Sexuality and Values class/OWL, High school GA Trip status, Congregational Events, DRE Report as of this date. *Parents and interested adults are encouraged to come.*

Sept. 15. At 10:00am: PreK-2nd* meet directly in Beatrix Potter Room. **3rd grade and up:** Start directly in Thomas Hall for **CHAPEL** Topic: The Magic of being Set Free from Expectations



At 11:15 am: 6th grade and Up (parents in particular and other interested adults) Introduction to our World Religions Program meet in Thomas Hall to learn about this year's programming which includes monthly visits to other houses of worship or guests that are planned.

At 11:30am: Middle & High School Youth: Create character costume bags & other props-Thomas Hall

Fri. evening Sept. 20. Tentative Visit to Jewish Community 6th & up



(Confirmation from our host will be available the week after Sept. 1st (after newsletter deadline) So look for details in the weekly emails.

Sept. 22. At 10:00am: PreK-2nd * starts at 10:00am in Beatrix Potter Room (formerly the Playroom) Story today: Moses in the Bulrushes (UU Source: Jewish Teachings)



3rd -5th gr: Start in the Sanctuary THEN TO GROUP – in Blue/Yellow Room in YRE Wing
Topic: Expecting Change / Moses and the Burning Bush (leadership, 10 commandments)

Middle & High School Youth Start in the Sanctuary THEN TO GROUP in Red Room
Topic: Judaism (response to trip, Compare Jewish and UU faith Jeopardy Game)



11:30am-1pm – 6th grade & up stay to make Finger Food for the Mystery Party

Sat. evening Sept. 28th Middle school and High school youth Set up Thomas Hall 5 pm
6-8 pm Congregational Party – a Mystery Party in Thomas Hall.

Sept. 29. At 10:00am:

Group's Topic: David & Goliath story & Expecting Pressure and David and Goliath story



PreK-2nd * starts at 10:00am in Beatrix Potter Room (formerly the Playroom)

3rd -5th gr: Start in the Sanctuary THEN TO GROUP – in Blue/Yellow Room

Middle & High School Youth: Start in the Sanctuary THEN TO GROUP in Red Room



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From Soul Matters – September Theme: Expectation

*God give us rain when we expect sun.
Give us music when we expect trouble.
Give us tears when we expect breakfast.
Give us dreams when we expect a storm.
Give us a stray dog when we expect congratulations.
God play with us, turn us sideways and around. — Michael Leunig*

We've all heard the line: "You get what you expect." It's very UU. Liberal religion has always emphasized the tremendous power human beings have to shape their reality. And not just with our actions, but also with our expectations. We know that if you expect people to be good, they will likely rise to the task. If you have faith in your plans, opportunities will likely appear. And yet shaping reality and trusting reality are two very different things.

Sometimes we UUs become so focused on taking hold of life that we lose the spiritual skill of allowing life to hold us. And there's a lot at stake in being able to do both. We human beings weren't just made to manifest our power; we were born to learn we are part of a greater whole. Yes, we are strong, but we also tire. And so the question at the core of our souls is not just "Can I expect to make an imprint on life?" but "Can I trust life to carry me if I let go and rest?"

Philip Booth puts us in touch with this deep part of ourselves with his poem called [First Lesson](#). In it, he tells his daughter,

*Daughter, believe me, when you tire on the long thrash to your island,...
remember... what I told you:
lie gently and wide to the light-year
stars, lie back, and the sea will hold you.*

So how about you? What are your expectations of this sacred but stormy sea in which we all swim? Do you have faith that this wildly unpredictable life of ours won't lead you astray? When your expectations get turned on their head, do you see that as a threat or are you willing to lean in? Are you willing to let life's currents lead you where they will?

And notice, this isn't just about whether or not we trust life; it's also about how willing we are to loosen our grip and let our preferred expectations go.

Which isn't easy for any of us! It's why, ultimately, we need prayers like Michael Leunig's as much as we need poems like Philip Booth's. We need life to upend us as much as we need it to hold and carry us. Those holy disruptions force our hand. They break our grip. Only then do we fall. And discover we can count on being caught. So bring on those unruly dogs and unpredictable tears. Let the rain disrupt our forecasts of sun. May Life indeed turn us sideways and around and lead us unexpectedly but safely home!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MYSTERY PARTY

**Saturday, September 28,
2019 from 6:00 to 8:00pm
Thomas Hall**



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You, YES, YOU! Are invited to a Mystery Party. The setting is the mUUseum of Modern Art, circa 1965. Dress up in "period" or fancy dress. You may participate as a guest or as a character in the mystery (information and elemental costumes will be provided for 10-12 people – characters include: Archeologist (specialty the artifacts of India – stones/gems/jewelry), Famous Artists 1 and 2, BBC Reporter, Sotheby's Auctioneer, Antiques Appraiser (specialty antique furniture), Detective, Famous Model/Hostess, Contessa Carmina from Turino, A High Society Patron of the Arts, Psychiatrist to the rich and famous, and the Duke of Bedford (English aristocrat). Please RSVP to Mary at mary@uunaples.org.

Feedback Table

Do you have comments, questions, issues, suggestions regarding the ministry of our congregation? What are we doing right? What can be improved? Your opinions matter, and the members of UUCGN's Committee on Ministry want to hear from you. This committee's purpose is to take the pulse of our membership regarding how our congregation is living its mission and vision. All comments are confidential and will be shared only among the present committee members (Toni Lundborg and John Boettjer) and our minister, Tony Fisher. Look for our "Feedback Table" sign on the pavilion after services. We'll look forward to seeing you there this Sunday and after that on the first Sunday of every month.

Visitor Welcome Table & Newcomer Orientation

Newcomers who would like more information regarding our congregation are requested to fill out a green colored paper located between the chairs in the sanctuary. Place them in the collection plate or leave on the table in the foyer. Please also consider stopping by the Welcome Table on the Pavilion after the service. 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, there will be a series of orientations throughout the year. They last about 2 hours. Childcare and a light lunch will be provided. Please contact the office if you would like to attend. Thank you!



Highlights of Upcoming Adult Enrichment Programs

Adult Enrichment has a lot of exciting new programs as well as continuing programs coming up. Here are some highlights. More details regarding the programs and how to get involved will be available on the UUCGN website.

Come and Grow **Upcoming New Programs**

Building Your Own Theology (BYOT): Rev. Tony plans to offer a five-session BYOT class on Wednesday evenings beginning October 2. Details will be available in the Weekly Highlights.

Reiki: A five-session class will start October 3.

World Religions: In an exciting new program, Youth Religious Exploration and Adult Enrichment will both be exploring world religions. The youth will learn more about world religions such as Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islamism, Earth-based religions, Quakerism, and Christianity during Sunday class time, and the adults will be offered classes on the same topics at a separate time. Both groups will join in the chance to visit places of worship each month of the program. The schedule is being finalized & will be available soon.

Non-fiction Book Club (perhaps to be named the Big Ideas Book Club): A monthly discussion of a non-fiction book will start in the late autumn, with a focus on topics relating to social justice, death & dying issues, racism, income inequality, spirituality, etc.

Stories from U: After the very successful launch over the summer, we are pleased to announce that quarterly follow-up sessions will take place throughout the year, with the next Stories from U taking place on Wednesday, November 6.

Facing Aging Together: Facing Aging Together is an 8-session group for people who are seeking an opportunity to look deeply at the aging process with others who are on the journey. The group is open to people age 60 and older and is limited to no more than eight participants. The group is led by Ann Fisher, who is a trained facilitator. The group will meet bi-weekly on Thursdays beginning in November.

Focus on Alzheimer's: We are in the planning stages to hold a four-part program to discuss the book *The End of Alzheimer's: The First Program to Prevent and Reverse Cognitive Decline*, by Dale Bredeesen. As part of the program, we will hear from an individual following the program outlined in the book. The sessions will most likely take place in late winter or early spring.

Tai Chi: At the request of members of the congregation, we are exploring offering tai chi at UUCGN. We will start with a 4-week introductory class tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-October but perhaps not until early January.

Choices for Sustainable Living: The Green Sanctuary Committee plans to offer an eight-week class using one of the Northwest Earth Institute's excellent workbooks. The program will start in January.

Ongoing or Continuing Programs

Chalice Circles: We will be offering both six- and three-month Chalice Circles again, with the six-month groups starting in November and the three-month groups starting in January (exact start dates to come). We will also offer facilitator training (October 13) and a sample Chalice Circle (October 20). Registration for these sessions and for the Chalice Circles themselves begins October 1. If you would like to explore being either a facilitator or a participant, contact Jo Ann Womack.

Guided Autobiography: Pam Mayer will continue to offer her very-much appreciated Guided Autobiography Levels 1 and 2 classes, early in the new year. Those who have already participated in Levels 1 and 2 will be joining Pam in an online group that starts this month.

Several other ongoing programs will continue to be offered as well. Several are offered not directly under the umbrella of the Adult Enrichment Committee, having existed before the committee formed. Ongoing programs include, for example, Art in the Garden, Writing Group, Visual Arts Group, Aging Well, Fiction Book Club.

More Program Ideas: Other programs on our list include monthly discussions of TED Talks, a woman's group, and a 10-part class on Spiritual Practices (from the Faith Forward program – see elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on Faith Forward).

How Can I Participate in So Much? If your head is beginning to spin reading about all these exciting offerings and wondering how you will be able to take advantage of all that interests you, keep in mind that they will span the months of October through perhaps May. Some will take place during weekday hours, others perhaps during or after one of the Sunday morning services, and others on weekday evenings. Adult Enrichment in conjunction with Mary Borland (YRE) and Rev. Tony have begun discussing reviving the concept of the former Beyond Sunday evening program and making it an ongoing Wednesday evening gathering, currently being dubbed "Wonderful Wednesdays." Refer to the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more on this idea.



New Chalice Circles Forming

With Start Dates in November & January

First, in case you are wondering, Chalice Circles are a form of Small Group Ministry. Groups of 6 to 8 people meet regularly — in our case twice a month — to reflect, to share deeply, and to listen without judgment about concerns of the heart and mind. Chalice Circles are a different form of sharing, not like a discussion or therapy group, but a chance to listen and share from the heart.

Chalice Circles are great places to get to know other people and to get to know yourself better. Over time, participants develop deep connections with one another, with the congregation, and with their spirituality. Each gathering is structured and facilitated by a member of the congregation who is trained in facilitation. Participants are encouraged to share their stories and learn how to listen deeply without judgment to others.

For our guide we will again be using *Soul Matters*, the same program that we used last year. In addition to the deep listening in small group meetings, *Soul Matters* incorporates opportunities for experiential engagement and encourages personal reflection.

Interested in facilitating a Chalice Circle? For those familiar with Chalice Circles as either past facilitators or participants, or those who have served as facilitators in other capacities, we invite you to attend a training session so you can decide if you would like to serve as a facilitator of either a 3- or 6-month group. This facilitator training session will be held on Sunday, October 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Interested in joining a Chalice Circle as a participant? In case you're considering joining a Chalice Circle but aren't sure, we encourage you to experience what a Chalice Circle is like. An introductory "sample" Chalice Circle will be held on Sunday, October 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If you are curious and would like to explore the format of a Chalice Circle group beforehand, contact our coordinator, JoAnn Womack at or to register. We strongly recommend attending the Sample Chalice Circle before committing to a group. If you can't make the October 20 session (or even if you can but would like to read more), let JoAnn know and she will send you the Participant Guide from *Soul Matters* as it will provide much useful information.

Three-month and six-month Chalice Circle: Registration will start on October 1 via email to JoAnn or to Anna in the office, with signups also available on the pavilion on Sundays October 20 and 27. You can choose to join a Chalice Circle that meets for six months (November-April) or three months (January-March). Exact days and times will be finalized as soon as registration is complete. More information will be sent out in the Weekly Highlights from the office, but feel free to contact JoAnn with any questions.

Reiki Level I Class

Thursdays, 6:00-8:30. October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

\$175 if paid in advance (15% discount for UUCGN members)

Become a Reiki Practitioner: Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation through the use of the "laying on of hands". Reiki supports healing and deep relaxation, a state in which the body heals and regenerates. Reiki is an excellent complement to other therapies.

Reiki is relatively simple to learn and is a natural and safe method of spiritual healing and self-improvement that everyone can use.

This class will emphasize learning how to support your inner healer, improve your nutrition, the way you move and manage stress.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Silvia Casabianca, a well-respected local practitioner and the director of Eyes Wide Open, offer this class at UUCGN. Dr. Silvia Casabianca practiced medicine in Colombia, holds a master's degree in Art Therapy from Concordia University (Montreal), is a Florida licensed mental health counselor, and massage therapist. She's also a certified Trager practitioner and Medical QiGong practitioner. She has taught Reiki, Intro to Trager, and Neuroscience of parenting, around Florida and in Colombia. Silvia has been a pioneer in humanistic & holistic approaches to education, neuroscience and spirituality, energy healing, and art therapy. She's the director of EYES WIDE OPEN, a wellness and awareness company, volunteers as a GAL and as a SCORE mentor. She has published several books including *Regaining Body Wisdom* and *Stress Management for Massage Therapists*. She's about to publish her most recent book, *Our heart-minded brain*.

Please reserve your space. Register online at www.EyesWideOpenc.Com or at UU by calling 239.455.6553 – More info by phone also. To become a practitioner, you must attend all of the classes in this series. Each class offers lecture, videos, meditation, relaxation, and, most importantly, hands-on practice.

Upcoming Congregational Affairs...

Faith Forward



You may have begun to hear mention of the Faith Forward program being introduced this autumn at UUCGN. This article will provide some information about the program and also invite you to an hour-long session on **September 10 at 3:00 pm** in Thomas Hall at which its scope and power will be described and its implementation at UUCGN discussed. (will be replacing the usual monthly Program Council meeting but won't be as long!).

Faith Forward: From Visitor to Leader is a guided path for Unitarian Universalists to follow in their congregations, helping them navigate from building connections early on, to finding their sense of belonging as a member, to serving as a leader and boldly living their faith. It was developed by First Unitarian Church of Dallas and is now being used at Unitarian Universalist congregations everywhere. UUCGN has purchased the program and hopes to take advantage of much of what it offers our congregation.

Faith Forward is more than a curriculum. It is a program that bridges faith development and the membership process by offering an integrated path that guides people from being a visitor to becoming a member, to serving in leadership in our congregation. **Faith Forward** combines relationship building, experiential learning, direct instruction, and practical guidance on how to get connected and involved. Unlike traditional curricula, **Faith Forward** focuses on building relationships among participants, and between participants and other members and leaders of the congregation, by introducing us to a variety of different presenters and facilitators. The Faith Forward program includes three Paths: the Core Path, the Advanced Path, and the Leadership Path.

In the **Core Path**, participants explore our congregation and Unitarian Universalism. Classes in this Path include: Inquirers Series, Roots, Beyond Inquirers, Spiritual Practice, UU History 101, & UU Elevator Speech.

In the **Advanced Path**, the classes build upon the foundation created by the Core Path with classes such as UU Theology, Coming of Age for Adults, Biblical Literacy for Unitarian Universalists, UU History 201, and Deepening Spiritual Practice. As with all Faith Forward sessions, the Advanced Path helps participants grow in their faith and deepen their connection to their congregation, and invites them to ask the question "how does this learning help me on my spiritual path?"

The **Leadership Path** (in development, available by yearend) will cover areas/topics such as: meeting skills, stewardship, management, public presence, cultural competency, systems/strategic skills, mentorship, emotional intelligence and self-awareness around the identity/role of "leader," along with some specifics related to different kinds of leadership roles in the congregation.

Along with class materials that include facilitation guides, videos, handouts, etc., there is also a small audio library and several webinars for leaders and facilitators. You will be hearing more about UUCGN's implementation plans for the Faith Forward program in the next several months. Both Membership and Adult Enrichment are discussing how best to introduce programs in the Core Path. At the September 10 meeting, Ann Fisher and Kathie Gorski, co-chairs of Adult Enrichment, will provide an overview of the program, show sample videos and curricula, and describe other resources from the Faith Forward program. We will be inviting Rev. Tony to provide comments on the value of the program & Nancy Carroll to describe initial ideas from Membership. Please direct any questions to Ann or Kathie.

Better Angels

How Do We Talk with the Other Side? – Better Angels

In April the Adult Enrichment Committee announced that it will host a **Red/Blue Workshop** on Saturday November 9, from 1 to 4 pm at UUCGN. Registration for the workshop is **now open** for UUCGN members and friends. This workshop is conducted by trained moderators from Better Angels, a national bipartisan citizen's movement building ways for both sides of the conservative/liberal divide to talk to one another. Those attending self-select as either liberal leaning or conservative leaning and participate in guided group activities which focus on:

- listening to and learning from each other (rather than arguing or persuading),
- understanding each other's points of view (even when disagreeing about them) and,
- engaging with each other to look for common ground and ways to work together.

To register, or for more information, please contact George Kotlan or Larry McCarthy.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Ongoing Wednesday Evening Programming at UUCGN Is Under Discussion

Several committees and Rev. Tony have been discussing reviving the concept of the former "Beyond Sunday" weekday evening program and making it an ongoing Wednesday evening gathering, currently being dubbed "Wonderful Wednesdays." In one scenario under discussion, these evenings would offer vespers, a meal, and a choice of programming for adults and also sessions for children and multi-generational sessions. The focus would be on fellowship, strengthening our bond of community (both internal in the congregation and with the wider community), and enriching our lives by focusing on the mind/body/spirit interests of our attendees.

We would offer childcare if requested and facilitate carpooling for members of the congregation who prefer not to drive in the evenings. Wonderful Wednesdays may not be held every single Wednesday evening and would definitely take a hiatus during the Progressive Voices series.

A tentative schedule would be:

- Vespers at 5:30 pm
- Dinner from 5:45 until 6:25 pm
- Programming options from 6:30 until 8:00 pm

We would aim to have multiple program offerings each Wednesday evening. Programs that could be offered include some Adult Enrichment classes and sessions such as viewing and discussion of TED talks, various sessions on spiritual practices (to include the Faith Forward 10-part series called Spiritual Practices), also arts & crafts, movement classes, invited speakers with discussion afterwards, social justice movies, etc. etc. Committees involvement could include Adult Enrichment, Youth Religious Exploration, Green Sanctuary, Social Justice, Blue Zones, Creating Our Future, Arts in the Garden, Worship Arts, Membership. Maybe others as well? The concept of Wonderful Wednesdays was presented at the August 27 Program Council meeting, and there was interest and enthusiasm from committee chairs in attendance. If you would like to become involved in the brainstorming & planning, contact Kathie: .

Writers' Critique Group

This is an opportunity for all writers - fiction, non-fiction, essay, poetry - to come together to share their work and receive feedback in a supportive, collegial environment. Contact John Womack by e-mail. All are welcome!

Visual Arts Group

The Visual Arts Discussion Group meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 4 pm. Everyone is welcome!!! Come and bring in examples of your recent work...Painting, Photography, Sculpture or any other medium. We will try to go beyond a technical critique and explore what story the artist is trying to tell. Interested? Contact George.

Art in the Garden

Art in the Garden meets every last Saturday of the month at 10 am. If you are interested in joining us please email Kathleen Teach. A donation of \$20 per class will go to the UU garden.

Aging Wisely Exercise

Thursdays at 11. A CO-ED gentle exercise program, adaptable for anyone regardless of physical limitations

Family/Weekend Meals

The **FAMILY MEALS** program needs your help! The donation bin in the lobby is available to fill with the following items that will be distributed to needy families for the holidays. Thanks for pitching in. Canned fruits & vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, cans or pouches of tuna & chicken, beans and franks, canned soups, pastas, stews, mac & cheese, pasta, cereal, granola bars, laundry soap (small size), toothpaste & toothbrushes. (no glass containers, please)

Tech4Good

Tech4Good is a nonprofit organization that meets the first Tuesday of each month, from 6 to 8 pm at UUCGN. We invite all local nonprofit organizations to network, learn, test and explore new technologies, exchange ideas, and best practices. To learn more or to register, visit www.tech4goodswfl.org.

LGBTQIA+Interest Support Group

The group meets the second Monday of each month. If you are interested in joining LGBTQIA+ group, please contact Annie/Roger at with questions. Thank you!

UUCGN Garden Crew & Grounds Committee

Occasional Report

August 20, 2019

Summer Work

July & August challenged our dedicated garden crew with the usual weather-related hurdles of heat, humidity, and frequent rain showers. To avoid these conditions, especially the oppressive heat and humidity, the crew has been starting work each Tuesday at 8:00 am.

In spite of these conditions and the absence of our snow bird contingent, we have had a faithful attendance averaging 8 to 11 volunteers each Tuesday morning. Much of our summer work has been devoted to contending with the rapid proliferation of weeds. Fortunately for us, Rose Lemery and Jane Ellsworth have taken the lead with battling the unrelenting force of nature to reclaim our garden as a haven for those original Florida plants that we humans designate as “weeds”.

Bill Scheiman continues his tireless efforts in many areas such as caring for our motorized equipment as well as installing a much-needed drainage configuration to disperse rain water from the sanctuary roof. As principal tractor operators, Bill and John Boettjer have hauled away hundreds of loads of trimmed tree branches, barrels of weeds, and endless bundles of bush trimmings to our debris pile located north of the septic drain field. They have also delivered bags of bark mulch and bales of pine needles throughout the garden.

News of Floral and Plant Additions

We are pleased to announce that our garden now includes a yellow rose bush in the grassy lawn area in front of the facility. This is the same section in which 3 crepe myrtle bushes were previously planted by Maria McCormick earlier this year. The rose bush was planted in June 2019 by Israel Cruz, carefully pruned back by Gary Pajonk, and watched over by Maria McCormick with regular watering in its early weeks. Repeatedly, our crew encountered ominous warnings that a rose bush would not survive on our UUCGN property.



However, we can now report happily that it has indeed thrived and the first yellow rosebuds were reported by August 20, 2019 with the promise of a plethora of fragrant blooms in August & September! (We urge UUCGN Members to smell the roses for themselves.) This is the first successful planting of a rose bush on the UUCGN grounds according to the collective memory of our garden crew. Contemplation of the new life of this renewable bouquet of roses, reminds the writer of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was an admirer of this glorious plant:

“These roses under my window make no reference to former roses or to better ones; they are for what they are; they exist with God to-day. There is no time to them. There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence.”

Patrick Parker generously donated and planted a podocarpus hedge scrub and a Norfolk Island pine. He also planted a jasmine-related vine as well as new bromeliads to add to our expanding collection. Many of our bromeliad colony are in their summer transformation and regeneration period; however, a number are in bloom. One interesting new addition is a “Blue Tango” species, added a few months ago. It is now starting to put out a bloom. Patsy Sachs continues to lend her expertise in Florida gardening, especially in the domain of bromeliad care and cultivation.



Many of our tree-based orchids added by Cheryl Nunez have been blooming next to the Pavilion and are most welcome surprises as we look skyward from our Sunday after-service gatherings. The yellow flowering popcorn bush, which attracts butterflies, is still

blooming and is nestled behind two currently flowering hibiscus plants. Maria McCormick brought the popcorn plant from Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania months ago, and it seems to like its new home.

The mirrored wall, created by Kathy Ripin, now features two large, potted blooming bromeliads, which frame the wall display.



Garden Crew Creations

Bill Haubrich is in the process of expanding our garden area in front of the northwest corner of the Sanctuary. He has extracted up to 100 rocks and used them to enhance a rock wall, which will serve as the backdrop border to this new planting section. This partially shaded, large area will offer many possibilities for creative garden design. As Bill oversees the collection of new plantings and arrangement for appropriate watering, we will be reporting back on the highlights of this new project.



George Evans and Carl Veraja added a new antique hand pump, which is placed in tribute to Harlene Richardson, who was the driving force behind the creation of the UUCGN Memorial Garden in the days of the Domes Sanctuary.



George also gave new life to resident frogs, which, in their new coats, recall the eclectic artistic taste of his late, dear wife, Nan Evans.

All in all, there is much to offer in our garden as a visual feast for the observant senses. The alert ear can listen to the occasional songs of the resident cardinals under our shelters of cypress trees and a universe of day blind stars. We also offer the peaceful sound of birdbath circulating water powered by the afternoon sun. And finally the sense of smell is reborn with a whiff of our new yellow rose buds, which call out for attention.

Garden Financial Matters

For the approximately four and one half month period this fiscal year starting on April 1, 2019 to August 21, 2019, the expenditures of Garden and Grounds (i.e. garden, lawn care, bush trimming, purchases) was \$5,431.49 out of a total annual budget of \$21,400.00. In addition, anonymous garden crew members donated over \$3,000 in plant materials and payments applied to improvements in the fountain (\$600.00) and building/garden drainage (\$400.00).

Global Climate Strike September 20

Swedish teen Greta Thunberg has catalyzed a global youth climate strike movement, and Sept 20-27th, the youth are calling on people of all ages to join them in striking (leaving your jobs and daily routines) to demand rapid, just climate action. Plans are underway to have an action in Naples on September 20th but time and place have not been solidified. Stay tuned for more details. And for those not back in Naples, you can participate by locating a climate action near you at strikeywithus.org.

Citizens Climate Lobby

Citizen's Climate Lobby, www.citizensclimatelobby.org, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers people to become effective advocates for climate solutions. Each meeting we have a guest speaker (by video) and make plans around outreach opportunities, building relationships with local business, faith and political leaders, and pursuing media opportunities. Regular meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Contact Amy Clifton at greensanctuary@uunaples.org. Thank You!

UUCGN Caring Committee

Many UUCGN members have left their former communities up North (or West, for some folks), have relocated to SouthWest Florida and found their way to our Unitarian Universalist community. Our congregation's Caring Committee members are available to help with short term needs such as transportation to appointments, delivery of prepared meals when an acute need arises or childcare for emergent situations. Our committee members come from varied backgrounds and professions and may be able to offer information to you if you have questions about resources in our region. Call the office and request a call from one of our members. We'd be happy to assist you with our helping hands and loving hearts.

DAWN (Dining Around the World in Naples)

Our next DAWN dinner will be held on September 13 at 5:00 pm at Aji Limon Taste of Peru which is located at 26455 Old 41 in Bonita Springs. In a strip mall on the E side of Old41 just past the entrance to the Hawthorne community. Ph: 239.984.3344, ext. 3. The food is delicious and reasonably priced. Menu is the same for all locations: www.ajilimonperuviancuisine.com. As they cook everything when ordered, this will be a leisurely dinner. Please RSVP if you'd like to join us for good food and conversation. Contact Joan Looney, Deadline is Sept 9th or when seats are full. Hope you can join us!

Film Fans

Film Fans Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at Silverspot Cinema and then at Burntwood Tavern afterwards to have dinner and good conversation! Please contact Joan Insel for more info. Thank you!

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

Margarete Banner
Jeannette Boucher
Charlotte Burnett
Stephen Clegg
Jennifer Dant
Elle DiCaspero
Patricia Engel
Steve Espinosa
Ann Fullarton
Della Hansen
Suzanne Herman
Barbara Kurko
Glen Looney

Pam Mayers
Thelma McDaniel
Marilyn McQuistan
Sylvia Moran
Bob Muschett
Marie Remick
Don Rung
Karen Schmitt
Joshua Sky
Marion Southard
Carl Veraja
Suzi Weinert
Becky Zoler



Happy Anniversary
Skip & Toni Lundborg
David Sleeper & William
Haubrich III



Calendar
[Click Here!](#)

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

Hurricane Policy

The original portion of the building from the office to the sanctuary was built prior to the adoption of the Miami/Dade hurricane code. Even though Thomas Hall and RE extension were built after the code, the building is not rated nor identified as a hurricane shelter. Any use of the building as a shelter should be considered dangerous and could expose the congregation to substantial insurance and liability risks. Therefore, under no circumstances should any member or friends of the congregation make any plans to come to UUCGN for shelter if extreme weather conditions are eminent.— Facilities Committee

CHURCH STAFF Minister

The Reverend Tony Fisher: minister@uunaples.org

Director of RE & Community Engagement

Mary Borland: Mary@uunaples.org

Music Director

Lan Lam: music@uunaples.org

Office

Hours: 9 am to 2 pm Monday - Thursday

Anna Riazzi: office@uunaples.org

Sexton

David Bosworth: sexton@uunaples.org

President of Board of Trustees

Brad Cornell

THANK YOU

To All Volunteers: We Need You!

Sunday Services:

Hospitality & Coffee Hour
Ushers, Greeters, Sextons
Money Counters
Teachers & More!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax: 455-3148

Website: www.uunaples.org

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Naples, FL 34116

We are located on Napa Woods Way,
one block south and east of Pine
Ridge Road at I-75.

Fundraiser for UUCGN by Amazon Smile

For newer members and as a reminder to other members, please use www.smile.amazon.com and choose UUCGN as your charity of choice. Everytime you shop, a small percentage goes to us! It's a painless way to help the congregation - and there is no extra cost to the purchaser! You can also access it through our UUCGN website or by [clicking here!](#) Thank you!

amazonsmile
You Shop. Amazon Gives.