

# OUR COASTLINE



April 2020

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our congregation's vision is to be a visible presence in the community, growing a just world through spiritual enrichment, compassionate action, and free religious inquiry.

## A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

We are an intentionally diverse community welcoming of an enriched by people of varying cultures, economic and ethnic backgrounds; by people of varying sexual orientations, gender identities and family compositions; by people of all races, ages and beliefs.

## Staying informed

Website gurus Barb Thomas and Hilary Schultz have created a new page on the UCF website to keep all the information you need to know about UCF in this time of the Corona Virus in one place. The "portal page" is at <https://www.ucfnc.org/ucf-ministry-in-the-time-of-the-corona-virus/>. There, you will find a link to information on services, cancellations, and how we are communicating. The information there includes Updates (the all-congregation emails we have sent out), as well as UCF Community and Connections, and links to useful information.

On the portal page, you will also find a link to Rev. Sally's Reflections. From time to time, Rev. Sally will post a poem or a short message that she hopes might bring you hope, comfort, inspiration or courage in these difficult days. You can read these reflections, or find a link to video-recordings of Rev. Sally reading them, at <https://ucfnc.org/reflections-from-rev-sally/>

Dear Friends at Unitarian Coastal Fellowship,

The Dr. Martin L. King Birthday Celebration Committee would like to thank you for supporting our Dr. King event.

Donations for our churches, community organizations, and individuals allow us to successfully honor this great man each January.

Thank you again!

Pauline Walker Chair person

## April Reflections from Sally

Just before Corona Virus turned our lives inside-out and our world upside-down, this congregation was beginning to imagine how we might grow our vision and grow into our vision as “a visible presence in the community, growing a just world through spiritual enrichment, compassionate action, and free religious inquiry.”

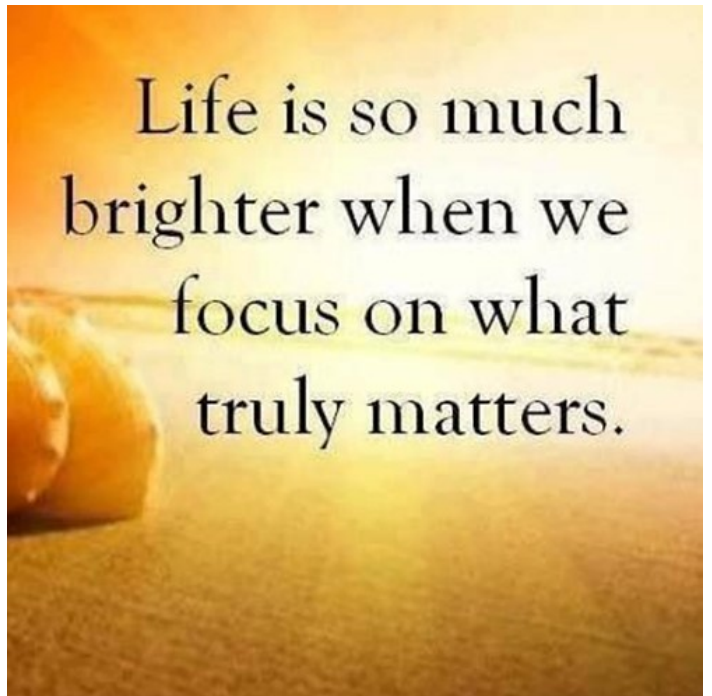
In a sermon on February 23, I invited members and friends to “dream with me. Dream big with me.”

Now, whether we like it or not, our lives are being simplified. In this time of Corona Virus, we cannot go everywhere, cannot do everything. We are re-learning that, when the sky is not the limit, when we cannot have everything, then focusing on the important things IS everything.

Corona Virus is teaching us to focus on the important things – in our daily lives, in our planning, and in our dreaming. For a time, Corona Virus is slowing us down, making us think, giving us the gift of time, of perspective, of setting priorities.

And when the crisis passes – as it will – and when the restrictions lift – as they will – then our dreams will be all the more powerful. Because they will be focused on the important things. And that is everything.

***Blessings on you in this time of Corona Virus.***  
***Sally***



## Worship Services

**April Worship:** For everyone's health and safety during this time of Corona Virus, in-person Sunday services will not be held until national, state and local leaders announce that groups of 50 are more allowed to meet. At that time, the UCF Board of Trustees and Minister will make a decision regarding our Fellowship's meetings and services, keeping in mind the increased risk that age and medical condition confers upon many of our members and friends.

If you would like to participate in online UU worship, the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), a UU congregation that operates largely online, offers an interactive, real-time video worship service every Sunday evening at 8pm Eastern Time. To participate on your computer, you will need to download the Zoom app. Visit the CLF website at <https://www.questformeaning.org/worship/> for information and links to download Zoom.

In addition, Rev. Sally is writing occasional short reflections, which are posted on the UCF website at <https://ucfnc.org/reflections-from-rev-sally/>. Rev. Sally is video-recording some of the reflections. If you'd like to watch, links to the videos can be found on the same web page.



### Annual Meeting Agenda Call:

This year's annual congregational meeting is scheduled for June 14. Further information will be forthcoming on how this year's meeting will be conducted as the time draws closer.

The agenda call is to be issued by the end of March. Due to interruptions from COVID-19 the Board of Trustees is issuing this year's agenda call through as many methods of communication as possible to include on the final agenda any business individual members may wish to have addressed at the Annual Business Meeting. To be included items must be received by the UCF Secretary Vicki Barrett ([ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com)) by June 1.

The annual meeting is an important milestone in our Fellowship's annual calendar. We receive reports from Trustees and committees, adopt a budget for the following church year, elect officers, update bylaws, and transact other business important to the life of our congregation. Active participation of all members is always important, particularly this year with the new building, interruption in our services from social isolation and the impact on our nation's economy. A quorum is required for voting.

It is important everyone's thoughts be shared regarding our future.

Tom Cullison, President, Board of Trustees

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear UCF Members and Friends,

We have enough stress in our lives right now, and so the Finance Committee has decided to hold off on continuing the current Annual Pledge Drive until we get past this health emergency. If you have not committed your pledge yet, or find, due to current financial conditions, that you will not be able to meet the pledge that you have made, do not hesitate to put your and your family's needs first. Let us know, when you can, what you intend to do, so that we can adjust the budget accordingly. We would usually try to create a proposed balanced budget in April for the coming year, however this year may be the exception to the schedule, and we will be flexible and understanding of the situation we are all finding ourselves in.

If you are able to continue your support, please send your monthly pledge or weekly contribution in by mail to the church, since we may not be having services, and unfortunately we still do have bills to pay and a payroll to make. Many people have their bank make payments for them and have the money automatically deducted monthly. The banks mail the check directly to UCF and it is usually a free service.

However you support us, we certainly appreciate it. We are in this together, we will get through this, and soon we will all be together again in our beloved space.

Stay healthy,

Finance Committee

Dave Hughes, Jo Ellen Essex, Lauren Donnachie, Mary Anna Newman, Sally Davis, Scott Travers, and Rev. Sally White



## SOCIAL ACTION

### **Carteret County Public Schools—Foundation Grandparent Fund**

The March 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection was designated to set up a fund in the Carteret County Public School Foundation to help low income grandparents who were raising their grandchildren to pay for the educational and extracurricular needs of these children. Since we are not having a service on March 29<sup>th</sup>, we have postponed this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection. It will be rescheduled





# Children's Religious Education Worship Programs and Activities

**Sarah Sutherland, Religious Education Administrator**

**April 2020**

Looking ahead at our activities calendar, our Family Fun Game Nights are cancelled. I was so looking forward to a night of B-I-N-G-O and Karaoke, snacks and fellowship, but we will definitely do this at a later date. I have heard we have some great singers among us!

I would like to thank the congregation and everyone who participated in the **Religious Education and Worship Round Table Discussions** over the last several months. You shared some very rich information through our conversations that will help to create the future worship, activities, and fun events for the children and youth of our fellowship.

We will gather one last time using the same Appreciative Inquiry model to create a "Dream" statement which will lead to the future goals for the program and a report to the fellowship of our findings. I am inviting everyone that participated in any of the discussions plus all the parents to be part of this next process. With the social distancing to keep us safe, we will have to wait until we gather together again to establish an official date to meet. There will be child care available and activities upstairs in the nursery and the religious education room for all children.

When we come back together our **Children's Religious Education and Worship Program** has the youth group working on their Photo-Documentary Project with their families in the fellowship. They will continue interviewing, gathering photos of the families, writing narratives and receiving write-backs from the families at the second luncheon all to create a final photo-documentary project that they will present to the congregation. In addition, they will also be creating their own personal family history story to share with their families and the congregation. Thank you, Karen Baggott, for sharing your expertise in photography with the youth. We all learned a lot that day about framing their pictures, angling and different views, and shadowing.

The **Moral Tales** group, ages 6-9, will be continuing their learning of the complex world around them and how to be caring, thoughtful, loving children all while learning about forgiveness, welcoming one and all, generosity, treading softly on earth, do no harm, courage, justice for all, as well as many other morals all while collecting "gems of goodness" in their jars.

Our third **Faith in Action Project** this year will see the children and youth making fleece knotted blankets for the Vidant Medical Center/James & Connie Maynard Children's Hospital in Greenville, NC. The three areas with the greatest needs that will be receiving our blankets are the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and the Pediatric Cancer Center for Children birth to 18. We will begin these blankets in one of our worship services and then continue it after coffee hour asking anyone from the congregation, if they would like to help finish the blankets, to join us afterwards for a soup and sandwich luncheon while finishing the knotting and sewing blanket tags and cards to prepare them for delivery .



**It takes a village to raise a child, it takes a congregation to raise the children and youth of our Fellowship.**

## UCF Women's Group

**Get your lunch ready and let's get together online!** The UCF Women's Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, April 1 at 12:30 via Zoom for some fellowship and sharing. Our topic should make for a lively discussion: If you could have one day to do anything you wanted, what would you do? (And, of course, money is no object.) I have already had two totally different ideas! I look forward to finding out what your dream day will be. If you would like to join us, email me, Susan Roberts, at [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com). I look forward to getting together online with you all on Wednesday, April 1! And, if you have never used Zoom before, we will provide easy to follow instructions.

## The Meditation Group

While the Meditation Group is not getting together to meditate, we continue to meditate . We are meditating each in our own homes at the same time. We just changed the time to 6:30 PM on Monday evenings.

Meditation is a practice of aligning your mind, body and spirit by going deep within to to access the power of your beliefs to create what you truly desire. It improves brain function and actually lights up your mind and brings you back to being heart centered. For information contact Vicki Barrett [vlbarrett42@gmail.com](mailto:vlbarrett42@gmail.com)



## Mental Health Family Support Group

The **Mental Health Family Support Group** is an opportunity to share experiences and challenges of having family members or friends who live with mental illness. This group meets online (using the video conferencing platform Zoom) on Wednesday mornings from 10:30am to noon. If you would like to join these virtual meetings or would like more information, please contact Rev. Sally at 252-622-1978.



## NEWS OF UUs

Member John Russell died peacefully on Monday, February 24, in Arizona. His son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter were with him. There will be a memorial service at UCF in August.

Martha, Joe and Rebecca traveled to Richmond, VA and had a 15 person lunch to celebrate the 85th Birthday for Martha's Aunt Patricia.

June Little, started a new job on (March 16).. She is excited and nervous!

Mary Anne Jackson, was discharged from Crystal Bluffs yesterday (Saturday, March 14) and is now at home!

Brad Rich, is home after having been hospitalized for diverticulitis and a perforated bowel.

### Tea Party for the Twisted Sisters

On Tuesday, February 25, members of the Social Action Committee gathered at the Senior Center to thank the Twisted Sisters group for all the hats that they knitted and crocheted for us to put in our Holiday Gift Bags that we distributed in December to grateful recipients at Beach House, the Station Club and Hope Mission. We put on a tea party with a St. Patrick's



During this time of self-distancing take a walk along your favorite path or beach and pick up trash. All you need are gloves and a bag or a bucket. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors as well as helping the environment.





How lucky I  
am to have  
something  
that makes  
saying goodbye  
so hard.



Contact Us  
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252-240-2283

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