

OUR COASTLINE



July 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.



Thank you to Bill Alspaugh, Sandra Shelp's son-in-law for mowing the lot at 2900 Bridges Street! We appreciate your help!

Thanks also goes out to Jane Hines and Sally Davis for helping Sandra Shelp with the grass cutting and trimming and weeding work at 1300 Evans Street.

Sandra would also like to thank the team that came to help move furniture from the Sanctuary building to the Annex building at 2900 Bridges Street. Thank you David and Louise Hughes, JoEllen Essex, Dan Phillips and Harriett Altman!

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1—12:30 Women's Discussion Group via Zoom

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29—10:30am Mental Health Family Support Group via Zoom

July 6, 13, 20, 27—6:00pm Meditation Group via Zoom

For more information on these Groups and how to get a Zoom Sign-in Link see articles in this issue.

June Reflections from Sally

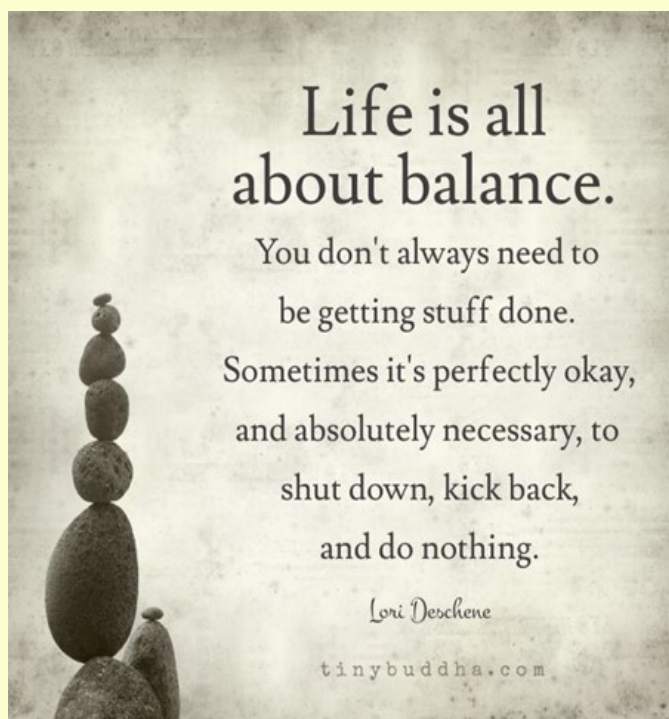
I will be on vacation during this month of July. I will be “off” beginning Wednesday, July 1, and will be officially back to work on Tuesday, July 28. If you have a pastoral care issue or concern during that time, please contact a member of our pastoral care team (Joan Burton, Helene Kelly, Holly Rogers, or Terri Thomas). If it is me you need, they will contact me.

In truth, I’m not planning to travel. But I am going to cut back on my Zoom meetings, and dedicate some time and energy to restoring and cultivating balance in my life. As I said in my reflection in our worship service on June 21... “There is a rhythm in a balanced life; a *praxis* (or, a way of doing) that moves between action and reflection. We act in the world, and then we reflect on our action, making the time and the space to consider the effects of our action – on the world and on ourselves. Learning, study, strategizing and revising strategy are one part of reflection – the part that seeks to understand the world in which our lives unfold, and how we are woven into that world. Worship that nurtures the spirit is another part of reflection – that part that seeks to remember – and to experience – that oneness with ... everything; the connectedness that gives our lives meaning, and power. And then from reflection back to action – to experience *of* the world and *in* the world, with all its harshness and beauty; real beyond all our theories and systems and plans – and dreams.

My prayer for each of us is that we may live lives of balance; sustainable lives for the most ordinary of times, no less than for these times of challenge and of stress.

***Blessings on you.
Be safe, and be well.***

Sally



President's Column

Enthusiasm and humility are two words that best represent my feelings as I begin my tenure as your Board president. I promise you that the Board will continue to work hard and smart on behalf of the community of which it is a part. UCF's mission and vision statement will serve as a measure of our effectiveness. Thank you for your trust!

I would be remiss if I did not thank Tom Cullison for his leadership over the past 2 years. He has approached his position with openness and a deep investment in the health and well-being of the UCF community and the UCF organization. Thank you, Tom!

The recent majority vote on the ballot issues starts a new epoch toward realizing our new home at 2900 Bridges St. We are now entering a time of "Hurry up and wait". We have to hurry up and put the Evans St. property on the market only to wait an unknown time for the right buyer that will lead to a timely closing. We have to hurry up and restart the Annual Pledge Drive only to wait to determine if pledges will give us the numbers we need to service a future debt. We have to hurry up and figure out other ways to raise funds only to wait until the state of the pandemic is such that we can implement those plans. We have to hurry up and complete the site plan and get it to the contractors only to wait for final drawings and a final estimate. Then, even when we move into our new home, we have to hurry up and sacrifice our time and treasure only to wait to own the Bridges St. property free and clear. We, as a community, have to hurry up and do whatever each of us can do to make the waiting pay off. Because it will pay off. May it be so!



"If you can't fly, then run.
If you can't run, then walk.
If you can't walk, then crawl.
But by all means, keep moving."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

New Building Team.

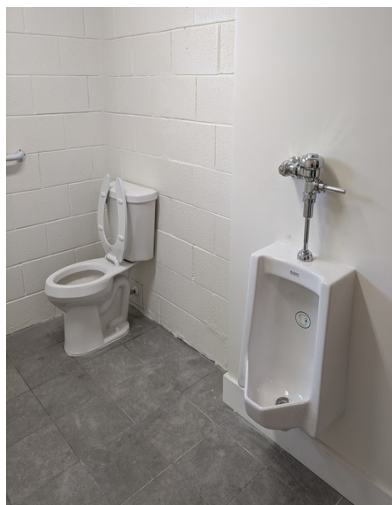
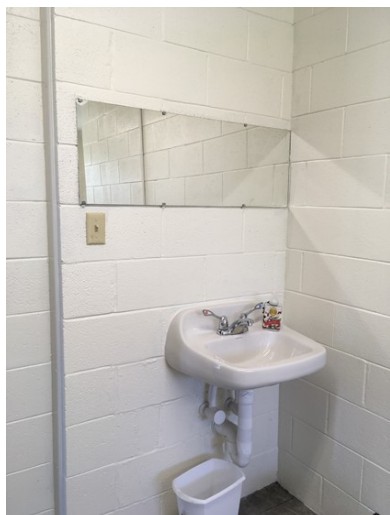
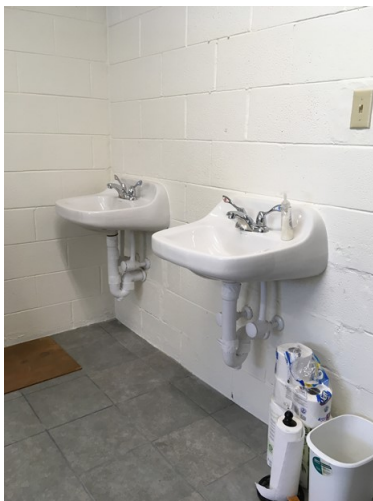
July News from your New Building Team.

Another month of progress with designing our new Sanctuary building. Our selected builders will be given the final Site Plan from our civil engineer Chase Cullipher. We have met with Chase several times via Zoom meetings. We expect the completed plans will be ready for our builders early July. Chase has been working off the new land survey so the required set back, green spaces, parking and other engineering items can be worked into the actual structural plans from the builders.

The annex has a few small items to be completed before it can be used on a daily basis. We expect the building will be open for business in mid-July. There will still be ongoing work in the annex to upgrade some facilities. None of this work will interfere with daily use of the building.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Phillips

Ladies' Room with Partition Panels Ready for Installation



Mens' Room Ready for Partition Panel Installation

Bridges St. Sanctuary Building Project Timeline

***These dates are estimates. The order of the steps is important. The exact dates may change.**

6/16/2020 Project Start

1. 7/1/2020 Completed Site Plans to Builders NBT
2. 7/5/2020 Pledge Drive Kickoff BOT
3. 7/7/2020 Interview and Select Realtor BOT/NBT
4. 7/15/2020 Put Evans St. Property on the market BOT
5. 7/24/2020 Receive Builder Estimates NBT
6. 7/25/2020 Compose Chalice Lighter's Grant Proposal for partial funding of new Sanctuary and decide date of submission of the application BOT/Sarah Sutherland
7. 7/30/2020 NBT Builder Recommendation NBT
8. 8/9/2020 Congregational Vote on Builder BOT
9. 8/10/2020 Solar Panel Grant Info to Eagle NBT
10. 8/11/2020 Submit Special Use Permit Materials NBT/BOT
11. 8/15/2020 Analysis of Pledge Drive Results BOT/Finance Committee
12. 8/18/2020 Sign Contract with Builder, Contingent on sale of Evans St. BOT
13. 8/18/2020 Pro Forma Cash Flow Analysis BOT
14. 9/30/2020 Obtain Special Use Permit NBT/BOT
15. 10/1/2020 Demolish Bridges St. Sanctuary Building NBT
16. 10/1/2020 Apply for Construction Loan BOT
17. 10/30/2020 Receive Solar Grant Approval/Finalize Lease Agreement NBT
18. 11/1/2020 Congregational vote on closing on Evans St. and finalizing the construction loan—BOT
19. 11/14/2020 Close on Evans St. BOT
20. 11/15/2020 GROUND BREAKING! NBT/BOT
21. 12/1/2020 Charter Interior Furnishings Team (IFT) BOT
22. 5/1/2021 Finalize Construction Loan BOT
23. 5/16/2021 Move into 2900 Bridges St. Congregation

BOT=Board of Trustees; NBT=New Building Team

Finance Committee

We are restarting the **Annual Pledge Campaign for 2020-2021**, and redesigning our Budget towards helping us cover the costs of maintaining our current building (until sold) and covering the everyday costs of our new functional sacred learning and meeting space to serve all our ministries. This may pinch us for the short term, but will be a breath of fresh air when we are finished. Please consider, or reconsider if you pledged in February, how your Annual Pledge can support our continuing ministries in our new home. We will send out more soon.

The **Capital Campaign** is seeing those pledges come in as scheduled, and even earlier. We thank you for your commitment toward buying, renovating and building at 2900 Bridges Street. The Annex Building is almost finished and is wonderfully inviting and comfortably air-conditioned! Soon we plan some socially safe workdays to move furniture in and start decorating. We hope you can help with this – masks will be required!

In a few weeks, the Building Team will be hearing news from our builders with bids for constructing the new Sanctuary Building. The Building Team has worked tirelessly with these builders, to get everything we want and need, but also to keep costs down. We can't thank them enough for what they have accomplished for us. When we get this information, the Board, the Building Team, and Finance will be letting the Congregation know with a letter, so that you will be informed prior to a zoom "Coffee" to discuss our options. We may be looking for some creative and collaborative thinking to get this last push toward the big move to 2900 Bridges Street. So watch for the snail mail, and tune in for the exciting news.



UCF now has a PayPal account. You can access our PayPal account via the "Donate" button on our webpage (ucfnc.org) or at ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com from your PayPal account. While PayPal is not our preferred means for accepting donations due to its 3% fee, it may be more convenient in certain circumstances. Feel free to contact the treasurer at ucfwelcome@gmail.com with any questions. If you prefer to send a check, we now have our secure post office box:
PO Box 425, Morehead City, NC 28557

Worship Services

June Worship:

10:30am Sunday mornings Zoom

Log-in information is in each week's

Saturday UCF Update

Or email Marilynn Cullison at mscullison@gmail.com



July 5: **“Joy of Sects”** Coleen Clark, worship committee member and traveler will present this message. “In every church, down every pew, each person worshipping believes just a little bit differently than the person beside them. What happens when your belief system is radically different, when you no longer feel you belong in the same group that your parents and grandparents raised you within? Today we will celebrate the Joy of Sects, of groups of people just like you who bravely stepped away and founded new sects, new denominations, or new religions based on their own truths. Celebrate your own bravery, and the happiness of breaking free from the norm, finding out who you are and what you believe, and what you have had to overcome to be where you are now.”

July 12: **“The Importance of Humility in Our Shared Journey to Become Antiracist”**. Presented by Reverend Deborah Morgan. Reverend Morgan is a graduate of Duke Divinity School, a retired (2014) Duke Hospital Chaplain and Chaplain Manager, and ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

July 19: **“Is Compassion Our Mission?”** Diverse, divisive, daily challenges provide a current background to her message, “Is Compassion Our Mission?” Presented by worship leader, Sally Davis.

July 26: **“Health, Healing, and Environment”** Former UCF minister, Reverend (ret.) Bob Murphy will deliver the message. How do we care for ourselves and our environment? Congregations are concerned about the pandemic, drug addiction, climate change, and other problems. In the midst of a difficult situation, we can help people and other creatures. Rev. Bob Murphy is a down-to-earth minister who will offer some suggestions. He was one of our fellowship's ministers during the 1990s. Bob is now a minister emeritus on Florida's Gulf Coast and he has a new mission. He helps with the creation of congregation-based programs for spiritual, physical, and mental health. What is possible for the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship? How do we move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and into something that all of us can enjoy?

Children's Religious Education



Our Children's Religious Education Program has been reading to the children, members, and friends of our fellowship every Sunday at 10:00-10:15 a.m. We have listened to great childhood story books and other favorites: Jill Sutherland kicked off our new Story Time by reading Horses of Sweetbriar; Nan Reed read Sylvester and the Magic Pebble; Penny Hooper read Old Turtle and the Broken Truth; and Sarah Sutherland read The Eagle and the Wren.

Over the next month we will be hearing from Karen Baggott reading Grover and Everything in the Whole Wide World Museum; Pat Harms is still picking her favorite book, Daryl Walker will be reading, Ringaloo, The Blue Fish; and Joan Burton will be reading Miss Rumphius. This has been a great time for our members and friends to connect with the children and they have enjoyed this time together.

If you would like to read a story starting on August 2nd, slots are open to sign up. You can pick your favorite children's story, or a new one that has come out recently, that would be great. We would love to hear you read to the children of our fellowship.

If you would like to read your favorite book, you can email Sarah Sutherland at ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com to sign up. Every week the Saturday UCF Update will have the link to sign into the Story Time.

Take care, be well and read a new book this week!

Sarah



UCF Women's Group

Women's Discussion Group will meet Wednesday, July 1 at 12:30 via Zoom. Fix your lunch, grab a beverage and join us. Our topic is Best Friends. Feel free to interpret this in any way you would like - best friend/s growing up, friendships that last, importance of a best friend or friends, or whatever comes to mind. Hope to see you on Zoom.

If you would like to join us, but are not on the Women's Discussion Group email list, contact Susan Roberts at landfall2@mindspring.com or 843-217-1885.



Social Action

Responding to Food Insecurities In Our Community

During COVID-19 Pandemic

During these uncertain and challenging times with COVID-19, food insecurity and hunger are affecting the most vulnerable people across our community, many who are trying to recover from storm-related damages due to Hurricane Florence. UCF is supporting many efforts to help reduce the burden and devastation caused by COVID-19 including the following:

UCF 5th Sunday Collection

Thank you for your generosity to our May 5th Sunday collection. Two food pantries, The Storehouse and The Lighthouse, were selected to receive our May 5th Sunday collection after being identified as having significant financial needs due to the increase in people receiving food. UCF members and friends donated an amazing \$2256 which we believe to be the largest 5th Sunday collection on record. Each of these pantries will receive \$1128 from UCF. Thank you again for your generosity.

UUA Disaster Relief Fund Grant

In addition to our 5th Sunday collection, UCF received a \$5,000 grant from the UUA Disaster Relief Fund to assist in addressing the impacts from COVID-19. Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance (CLTRA) and the New Bern Branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC will each receive \$2,500.

CLTRA Volunteer Disaster Case Managers are making “COVID Caring Calls” to over 300 households in our county that are still trying to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence in 2018. The needs identified during these calls reveal that COVID-19 is exacerbating the situations of extremely fragile households in our most socioeconomically disadvantaged and geographically isolated population. Financial and food insecurities are frequently noted as significant concerns during the calls. CLTRA will use this donation to purchase grocery store gift cards. CLTRA Case Managers connect people with local food banks and because of this donation, they will also now be able to offer a grocery store gift card to those most in need.

The UUA grant will also help our broader community through the donation to the New Bern Branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. This Branch of the Food Bank serves five counties in eastern NC including Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow and Pamlico, all of which received catastrophic damage from Hurricane Florence.

Social Action

Reclaim Our Vote Postcard Project



During the month of June, the Social Action Committee, in partnership with UU the Vote, the UU Justice Ministry of NC, and the Center for Common Ground, helped execute a project called “Reclaim Our Vote” by sending postcards to North Carolina voters who had been removed from the voter rolls.

Thirty members of our congregation wrote, decorated, addressed and mailed 20 postcards each to these voters – 600 postcards in total. The postcards told the voters that it appeared they may

have been removed from the voter rolls and explained how to check their status with their local Board of Elections and how to re-register. They also stressed the importance of the upcoming election in November.

The Social Action Committee will continue working with the UUJMNC on the UU the Vote project in partnership with Democracy NC and You Can Vote – both nonpartisan organizations that support voting rights and GOTV efforts in NC. Stay tuned for more ways to help!

The Meditation Group

The Meditation Group is now meeting via Zoom every Monday evening at 6:00 PM. We have a brief discussion before our meditation. The guided Meditation begins at 6:30 PM. Meditation is a practice of aligning your mind, body and spirit by going deep within to access the power of your beliefs to create what you truly desire. All are welcome. For Zoom link or other information regarding the guided meditations contact Vicki Barrett at vlbarrett142@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 videoconferencing platform Zoom) on Wednesday mornings from 10:30am to noon at the church. If you would like to join these virtual meetings or would like more information, please contact Rev. Sally at 252-622-1978

July 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 12:30 to 1:30 Women's Discussion Grp via Zoom 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	2 10am Leadership Council Meeting via Zoom 12:30pm Anti-racist read- ing group via Zoom	3	4
5 10 am Children's Story Time via Zoom 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom	6 6pm Guided Meditation Group via Zoom	7	8 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	9 10am Green Sanctuary Meeting via Zoom	10	11
12 10 am Children's Story Time 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom Annual Meeting following service	13 6pm Guided Meditation Group via Zoom	14	15 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	16	17	18
19 10 am Children's Story Time via Zoom 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom	20 6pm Guided Meditation Group via Zoom	21	22 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	23	24	25
26 10 am Children's Story Time via Zoom 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom	27 6pm Guided Meditation Group via Zoom	28	29 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	30	31	

GREEN TIP FOR JULY

On Independence Day, keep the trees, grass and your house safe by skipping the fireworks and sparklers. Instead, create color and light by waving glow wands, wearing Glow in the Dark accessories and hanging some blinking fairy lights in your back yard. If you are missing the Pop-Pop of fireworks, drag that bubble wrap waiting to be recycled out to the patio and jump on it!!!! (These are all proven techniques; you can't make this stuff up.) May the 4th be with you!



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



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