

# OUR COASTLINE



June 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.

## June 8th is World Oceans Day



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 8th @ 6:30PM—Zoom showing of the movie "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote". (For details see pages 9 and 10.)**

**June 14th—Annual Meeting:** Our UCF annual business meeting will take place **Sunday June 14, 2020**. Your Board of Trustees will convene a virtual meeting immediately following our Zoom Worship service. All members should attend. If you would like more information regarding Zoom, please contact Rev. Sally at 252-622-1978.

## June Reflections from Sally

As I write, our nation and our state are engaged in a struggle over re-opening churches at this point in the corona virus pandemic. Various congregations in our county are beginning to hold in-person worship services. On the national level, church services have been declared “essential,” and a debate is raging over whether it is necessary or even appropriate to gather in-person to do the essential work of the church, or whether ministry to the spirit, the body, and the most vulnerable among us can happen virtually, or at a safe distance in places where there is desperate need.

Meanwhile, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (“The UUA,” of which our Unitarian Coastal Fellowship is a member congregation) characterizes our ministry in this time as “Essential and Virtual.” She suggests that our congregations plan to offer our essential services through virtual channels for the next year – through May 2021. (You can read the text of her letter to congregational leaders at <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/message-uua-president-updated-guidance-gathering> ).

This guidance is offered as a suggestion, not an order or a decree. Her letter is grounded in science and in the most deeply-held moral values of our faith: care, compassion, and risk-reduction for the most vulnerable people in our congregations and in the communities in which we live and work and serve. This guidance is a suggestion that we *plan* for virtual worship; learning; leadership; pastoral care; and careful, respectful, inclusive decision making as we monitor our particular situation and the ever-changing reality of COVID-19 and the danger it poses. And – plans can change. If it becomes possible to gather safely for some or all church activities sooner, our congregation’s leadership will make a thoughtful, careful decision to do so. The UUA offers an extensive list of resources and questions to consider as we go forward. You can find them at <https://www.uua.org/safe/pandemics/gathering-guidance>.



Our church is not our building. Our church is our people, woven together in a tapestry of care, concern, and compassion. It is my privilege to serve in ministry – essential and virtual – with you.

***Blessings on you.***

**Sally**

## President's Letter

### This Could Take A While...

Our Fellowship is doing amazing job of adapting. Our various committees and other groups continue to work remotely. Zoom worship services have been well attended from the start. Most reassuring to me are the smiles on screen each Sunday at 10:30 and the conversations that follow the service. This Sunday's "coffee" discussion about the new building demonstrates our collective belief in UCF's future.

I'm concerned, though, about the recent deterioration of civility in what passes for public debate. It is long past time to separate partisan politics from health and economics. People are getting sick and dying from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The disease is wreaking havoc on the international economy, causing many individuals to depend upon family and governmental support to meet daily needs and modifying activities of daily living toward isolation and virtual relationships. How long this will last will be determined by success in creating an effective vaccine.

If there was ever a time for rational behavior based upon science and compromise, this is it. Fear and frustration is expressed by outrage, often aligned with political affiliation. No one wants to get sick and risk death. Nobody wants to become destitute. Exacerbating fissures in an already highly polarized society does not cure a disease or bring back jobs. Politics, in the best sense of the word, is the art of finding reasonable ways to do things when no clear answer exists.

It makes sense that UCF not gather for Sunday services for a while, probably at least through the summer. We simply do not have enough information to make this a safe thing to do. Many in our Fellowship are older, have chronic medical conditions or both. Our 1300 Evans Street sanctuary is an older building with poor air circulation and crowded conditions, particularly in the fellowship hall. Based upon the best epidemiological and biological science available today we, as a group, are in the highest risk category for a poor outcome if any one of us becomes infected and passes the disease on to others.

In her "Reflections" Reverend Sally refers to the on-line message from UUA President Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray. I encourage each of you to visit the UUA site to review literature and references for yourself. Here is the link once again: <https://www.uus.org/pressroom/press-releases/message-uua-president-updated-guidance-gathering>

Enlightened conversations and rational actions, not hyperbolic epithets, will get us through this.

Tom Cullison

President, Board of Trustees

## New Building Team.

The co-chairs of the NBT met with the BOT in May. They gave a report on where we are in the process and gave them a recommendation from the entire NBT for proceeding with development of the 2900 Bridges St property. We are at a point where we need to complete various site surveys before we can go to Morehead City and NC State for permits to go ahead with the demolition of the current sanctuary building and site development. There are various time lines for some items that need to be completed before others can be started. The completed and approved items then start a specified time where other items must be started, or the item may have to be reapproved by either Morehead City or NC State, depending on the item.

One of the last items on our list for the Annex is the installation of the fire alarm system. We have just had our fire alarm plan approved and the contractor will be working in the Annex the next several weeks. We are still looking for a contractor to install our restroom partitions. Several contractors have been contacted but none was able to do this type of work.

We are now a 'HotSpot' for Spectrum internet. The 2900 Bridges St lot has an icon with the church name and address on the [spectrum.com/wifi-hotspots](https://www.spectrum.com/wifi-hotspots) map. Being a hotspot does not cost UCF any money.

Some of this information may be old news to you if you attended the 'Coffee with the Board' and the NBT which was held after Sunday Worship service on May 24. We will have a follow meeting in two weeks on June 7<sup>th</sup> to review and answer any questions you may have before our Annual Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

At the annual meeting, you will be voting on where we go from here. One of the key issues is whether or not we will move forward with builder selection. This decision hinges on whether or not we sell the Evans Street church and raise the additional funding necessary to build our new church by borrowing the funds to cover the total costs of construction.

It's an exciting time for UCF!! There is lots going on so stay tuned for more information as we prepare to vote at our Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Phillips

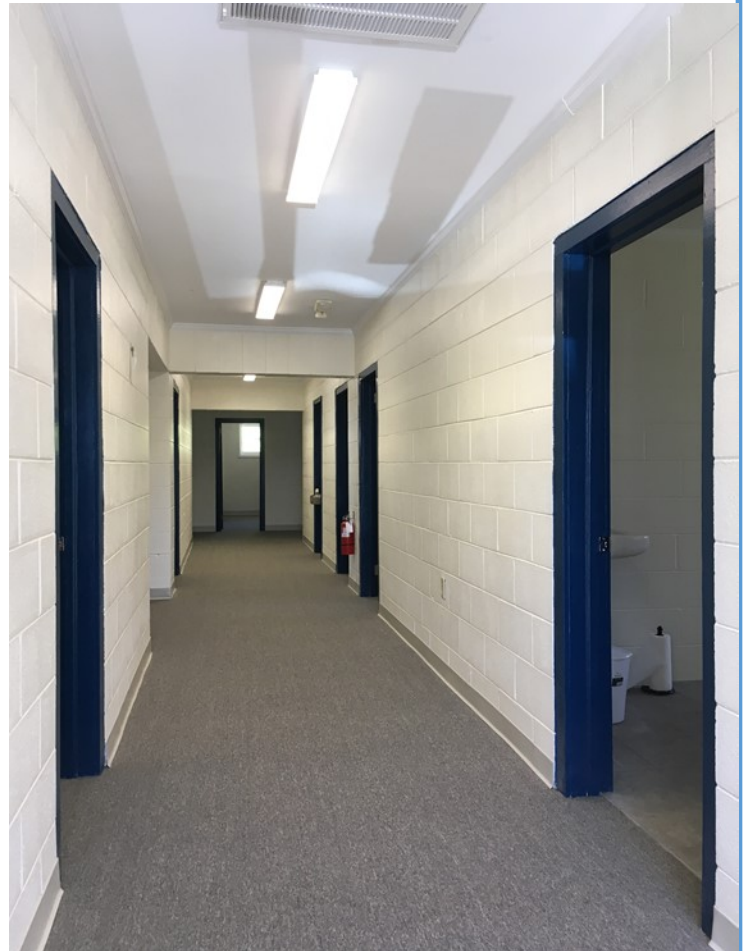


Dan changed out the light fixtures for LED.

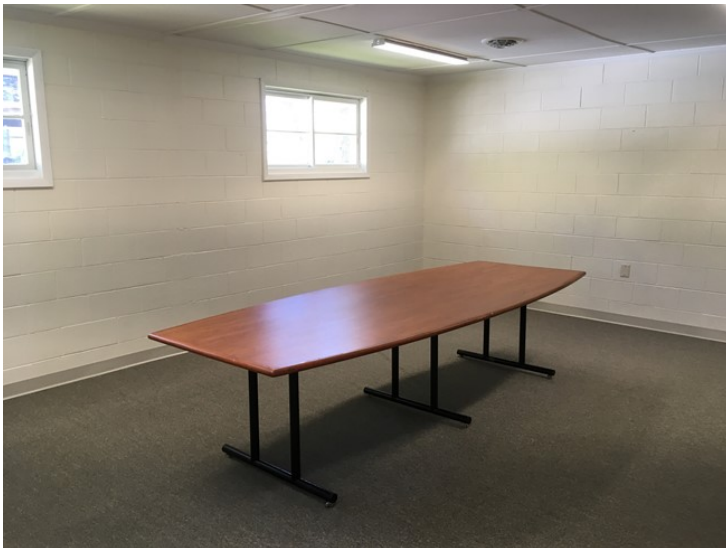




Bob and Dan with help from Jo Ellen removed the connectors so the roofers could rebuild the roof overhang.



Main Entrance Hall



Flex Room



Minister's Office



HVAC and Ductwork



ADA Water Fountain and Bottle Filler



Classroom with new window



Office Assistant's Office



UCF now has a PayPal account. You can access our PayPal account via the "Donate" button on our webpage ([ucfnc.org](http://ucfnc.org)) or at [ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 by Zoom

Log-in information is in each week's  
Saturday UCF Update

Or email Rev. Sally at [sb.white@earthlink.net](mailto:sb.white@earthlink.net)



May 31: **Living the Questions Now.** As we work out ways to **reopen** our economy and our society, how do we build on what we are learning from these weeks and months of living differently? Can we **reimagine** our daily lives and our church community, for the near term and for the long term? Poet Rainer Maria Rilke wrote, “Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.” We begin, then, with the questions.

June 7: **We Need One Another. We Need You!** Our congregation is faced with important choices about how and where we meet the challenges (and opportunities) of ministry in a rapidly-changing world. To make wise choices, we need everybody to be part of the process. We need one another – and we need YOU.

June 14: **Gather the Spirit, Harvest the Power.** This morning's worship will be a brief time of gathering and centering our spirits to lead us into our congregation's Annual Meeting – a time when, together, we tap into the power we hold to shape the future of our ministry and our world!

June 21: **Worship. Service. Balance.** Worship connects us with our deepest values, and service puts those values into practice in the world. In our individual lives and in the ministry of this congregation, how do we balance worship and service?

June 28: **Science and Faith:** Marine scientist and ordained minister Gerald Godette leads us as we explore the convergence of science and faith in our time of fear and uncertainty

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

Children's Religious Education

Hi Everyone

**Starting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Children's Story Time every Sunday from 10:00-10:15 over Zoom**

**Meeting.** I am inviting all high school youth, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents and members of the fellowship to read their favorite children's book, if you don't have a favorite, please pick another one that you know the children might like. You can sign up with Sarah Sutherland through her email at [ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list and send you the zoom link to log in. This will be a wonderful time to connect with the children in our time of social distancing and open their eyes to new books.



June 7<sup>th</sup> Jill Sutherland

June 14<sup>th</sup> Nan Reed

June 21<sup>st</sup> Penny Hooper

June 28<sup>th</sup> Sarah Sutherland

July onward is open.

I hope that you were able to take some funny pictures of your pet(s) last month. If you want to send them to my email address and I will post them in the newsletter next month.

After many rainy days last week and puddles all around, how many of our children might have experienced Jeff Foxworthy's poem, Dirt on My Shirt?

**Dirt on My Shirt**

There's dirt on my shirt  
And leaves in my hair  
There is mud on my boots  
But I don't really care

Playing outside is so much fun  
To breathe the clean air  
And feel the warm sun

To stomp in a puddle  
Or climb a big tree  
Makes me quite happy  
Just look and you'll see.

Looking forward to seeing you all on June 7<sup>th</sup> for our Children's Story Time.  
In Spirit and Love.





Unitarian Coastal Fellowship is hosting a virtual viewing and discussion of the film,

## **Suppressed: The Fight to Vote**

**Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

This short film highlights stories that took place in the 2018 Georgia Midterm Elections. Although the film focuses on voter suppression strategies in Georgia, we know that many of these of these same strategies are occurring in North Carolina and across our country.

After viewing the film, Marques Thompson with Democracy NC will lead our discussion on the history, current status and strategies to overcome voter suppression in North Carolina.

To receive a Zoom meeting invitation, please contact either

Barb Thomas at 252.422.1354 / [bsthomas2@gmail.com](mailto:bsthomas2@gmail.com)

Amy Jones at 252.717.1716 / [amjones0912@gmail.com](mailto:amjones0912@gmail.com)

## SOCIAL ACTION

### Suppressed: The Fight to Vote

On **Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**, the Social Action Committee and the Adult Religious Education Committee will be holding a Zoom showing of the movie **“Suppressed: The Fight to Vote”**. This 38 minute film was produced by Brave New Films and depicts the voter suppression that occurred in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race. After the film, Marques Thompson, a representative from Democracy NC will talk to us about efforts to suppress the vote in NC and what we can do about them, followed by a discussion. All are welcome to attend. Please email Amy Jones ([amjones0912@gmail.com](mailto:amjones0912@gmail.com)) or Barb Thomas ([bsthomas2@gmail.com](mailto:bsthomas2@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend so we will have a rough idea of how many to expect. We will send out the Zoom link closer to the event. Please feel free to share this information with members of the community and ask them to email us if they would like to attend.

Here is a link to the latest data on Covid-19 in North Carolina and in Carteret County, from the NC Department of Health and Human Services. <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard> If you scroll down, you will see a map of NC and can zoom in on Carteret County.

## Green Sanctuary

### World Oceans Day

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is 'Innovation for a “Sustainable Ocean”'. The Green Sanctuary planned to organize a trip to Radio Island for a beach



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clean-up. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this will have to be cancelled. To help celebrate **World Ocean Day** please consider going to a beach this week to do your own beach clean-up. If you would like more information on World Ocean Day, the website is [worldoceansday.org](http://worldoceansday.org) . There is also a petition you can sign on this site to ask governments worldwide to protect 30% of the planet's land and ocean by 2020.

## UCF Women's Group

Our next Women's Discussion Group will be next week - Wednesday, June 3 from 12:30 to 1:30 via Zoom. Get your lunch ready and your computer fired up and join us for a visit to our pasts. This month's topic is ancestry surprises. Or, if you don't have any surprises hiding in your attic of ancestors, how about an Interesting story about one of them. 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](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com) or 843-217-1885.



## 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 at [vlbarrett142@gmail.com](mailto:vlbarrett142@gmail.com)



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.



## June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 12:30 to 1:30 Women's Discussion Grp via Zoom 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	4	5	6
7 10 am Children's Story Time via Zoom 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom	8 6:30pm "Suppressed—The Fight to Vote" via Zoom	9	10 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	11	12	13
14 10 am Children's Story Time 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom Annual Meeting following service	15	16	17 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	18	19	20
21 10 am Children's Story Time via Zoom 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom	22	23	24 10:30-N Mental Health Family support Grp via Zoom	25	26	27
28 10 am Children's Story Time via Zoom 10:00 Worship Service via Zoom	29	30				

### GREEN TIP FOR JUNE

#### June Green Tip

Remember to save your plastic bags, bread bags, wraps, etc. and take them to the grocery store to be recycled. Martha Mission is also in need of plastic grocery bags.



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



Contact Us  
**Unitarian Coastal Fellowship**  
252-240-2283

#### **UNITARIAN COASTAL FELLOWSHIP**

1300 Evans St  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Choir Director: Tom Cullison [trcullison@gmail.com](mailto:trcullison@gmail.com)  
Office Assistant Vicki Barrett [ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com)  
Board of Trustees: President: Tom Cullison [trcullison@gmail.com](mailto:trcullison@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Melva Kearney [melva.kearney@gmail.com](mailto:melva.kearney@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Vicki Barrett [vlbarrett142@gmail.com](mailto:vlbarrett142@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: David Hughes [ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com](mailto:ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com)  
Leadership Trustee: Susan Fetzer [sgfetzer@gmail.com](mailto:sgfetzer@gmail.com)  
Leadership Chair: Susan Fetzer [sgfetzer@gmail.com](mailto:sgfetzer@gmail.com)  
Facilities: Sandra Shelp [shelpsk@yahoo.com](mailto:shelpsk@yahoo.com)  
Worship: Martha Naset [mbnaset@gmail.com](mailto:mbnaset@gmail.com)  
Finance: Jo Ellen Essex [ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com](mailto:ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com)  
Membership: Nan Reed [nanreed5@gmail.com](mailto:nanreed5@gmail.com)  
Social Action: Amy Jones [amjones0912@gmail.com](mailto:amjones0912@gmail.com)  
And Barb Thomas [bsthomas2@gmail.com](mailto:bsthomas2@gmail.com)  
Green Sanctuary: Lauren Donnachie [lsdonnachie@twc.com](mailto:lsdonnachie@twc.com)  
And Holly Rogers [hollyer54@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyer54@yahoo.com)  
Committee on Ministry: Marilyn Cullison [mscullison@gmail.com](mailto:mscullison@gmail.com)  
RE, Children: Sarah Sutherland [UCF.RE.Sarah@gmail.com](mailto:UCF.RE.Sarah@gmail.com)  
RE, Adults: Vicki Barrett [vlbarrett142@gmail.com](mailto:vlbarrett142@gmail.com)  
Music Committee: Tom Cullison [trcullison@gmail.com](mailto:trcullison@gmail.com)  
Care Circle Coordinator: Pam Holliday [pamelalaholliday@gmail.com](mailto:pamelalaholliday@gmail.com)  
Newsletter: Vicki Barrett [ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com)