

Welcome to our beloved UCF Community and welcome distinguished guests to the groundbreaking of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship's new sanctuary building,

Happy groundbreaking everyone! This site and the building we are about to erect here are the results of a mission and a vision we hold dear, the product of years of history in the making and the building of a legacy of generosity, commitment, and hard work. It started in 1980 with a newspaper ad in the Carteret News-Times and meetings in the Webb Library, and eventually led to the 1993 purchase of a church home at 1300 Evans Street. Programs, worship services, children and adult ministries, social justice work, and community outreach soon filled that building beyond its capacity. Our forebears started dreaming of how much more could be done with sufficient space to do it. In anticipation, they began setting aside money for today's congregation to help purchase sufficient space and fulfill our collective dreams. They knew that those who came after them would carry their legacy forward. We actually still have one of those original members in the current congregation—Susan Fetzer.

UCF's current congregation builds on the legacy of our forebears by envisioning and planning for a fulfilling and abundant future on this campus. We see a future of full chairs in our new sanctuary, chairs that are full of people of all ages and cultures. We see a future of music and singing. We see a future of enthusiastic children and youth in our Sunday School classrooms. We see members and friends finding spiritual enrichment by participating in our various ministries. We see a future of community events to be held here. Things like concerts, recitals, and songfests. Things like self-help meetings and the meetings of community organizers. We see the continuing of community partnerships and the nurturing of new ones. We see a visible and productive impact on the larger community. In dreaming of this future, this congregation has found a way within themselves and each other to make it happen here at 2900 Bridges Street. We have experienced amazing and unceasing generosity; commitment and optimism; and working together as a community to achieve what is needed to fulfill our dreams.

Even so, just as it was with our forebears, we know we will dream into an even bigger future for UCF. Let us today reaffirm our commitment to passing on the legacy we inherited and creating a legacy for future UCF congregations to carry forward. Let us commit to building a vibrant and diverse congregation at the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship that will last for generations.

My dearest UCF community, congratulations on your success in achieving this groundbreaking today. The entire community around us looks forward to the blessings of what is created here. Thank you! And thank you to all who share in our happiness today!