

# OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship  
Morehead City, NC



JULY 2021



## 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.

## 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.

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hello, my friends!

Happy July! As UCF prepares to welcome an interim minister, a seminar I attended at General Assembly entitled “Interim Ministry: A Time for Liberation and Change” was particularly pertinent. This seminar clarified for me what we can expect as a Board and as a congregation as we face this transition. I hope it will provide similar clarification for you. First, I learned that interim ministers are not merely placeholders as a congregation waits to call a settled minister. In addition, interim ministers are not settling for these positions because they’re not qualified, or they wish to become qualified, to be “real” ministers. Interim ministers choose interim ministry because they have a special set of skills they carry to each congregation—the ability to counsel a congregation as they decide what they want to be in the future. Interim ministers are called to the unique privilege of being fully present in a congregation’s time of self-examination as they prepare to call a settled minister.

As Unitarian Universalism itself is transitioning toward building beloved community and dismantling white supremacist culture, it has become clear that UU congregations need a guiding hand to make their own changes in this regard. Interim ministers possess a set of skills to be that guide. It is a time of developing trust as a congregation digs into its fears and its hopes to decide what it wants to be. In other words, Rev. Michelle will not be there to tell us what to do or what to be. She will be there to partner with the congregation, providing a spiritual basis for what WE want to BECOME.

It will be Rev. Michelle’s task to form a Transitions Team, populated with a broad swath of members and friends. The Team will go through a 3-step discovery process, articulating: (1) who UCF was in the past; (2) who UCF is now; and (3) who UCF wants to become. In this third step, it will be a time for each of us to imagine what’s possible for us personally and what’s possible for our congregation as we embrace our transitioning UU principles. Almost all congregations discover new ways to find personal and congregational transformation and the interim minister is there to help them achieve what they seek. A few congregations decide to skip the third step to maintain the comfort of the status quo; however, those congregations generally have difficulty securing a settled minister and often find their membership decreasing. Today’s settled minister candidates seek vibrant, forward leaning congregations who work to deepen their commitment to the wider world. It is no longer good enough to be a haven of liberal THOUGHT. These candidates seek congregations who commit themselves to the spiritual fulfillment of being a DOING force in the wider world.

It is the role of the interim minister to help us become that doing force, if that is OUR desire. That is the call embraced when one chooses to be an interim minister and that is the call embraced by Rev. Michelle.

All the best to you!

- Melva



# JULY

## Worship Services

10:30am Sunday mornings by Zoom

Log-in information is in each week's Saturday UCF Update  
or email Marilyn Cullison at [mscullison@gmail.com](mailto:mscullison@gmail.com)

### **July 4: "Jubilation! In(ter)dependence Day!"**

- Marilyn Cullison, Worship Committee Chair and others

On our first Worship Sunday (in) between UCF ministers, we will explore thoughts and ideas about navigating, sharing and supporting one another- an in(ter)dependent web of existence within **our** UCF church!

### **July 11: "When People Don't Like What You Say"**

- Rev. Gaye Morris, UU guest minister

In our congregations, when we don't like what someone says (or what we've heard that they've said), instead of fuming silently, or expressing our anger to someone else, we are urged to approach the person with whom we differ directly – assuming good intentions – to ask them to speak with us about what is concerning us. Wouldn't it be grand if everyone everywhere lived more intentionally by a covenant of right relationship?

#### **Bio:**

The Rev. Dr. Gaye Morris lives in Manteo NC with her husband, the Rev. David Morris, and great-grandson Oliver. She is the affiliated Community Minister of the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, Oak Ridge TN. She also teaches online courses in Communication as an adjunct instructor with Augusta University, Augusta GA. She was ordained in 2013 and served until 2019 as the full-time minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta, GA.



# JULY

## Worship Services

### July 18: "What Brought You To Unitarian Universalism And What Keeps You Coming Back?"

- Rev. Debra Guthrie, UU guest minister

Over the years, have you forgotten and it has just become a habit? Are you so concerned with what needs to be done, you have forgotten why we are doing it?

This morning we will try to reconnect with all the reasons we call ourselves UUs and why it is good to be church people.

#### Bio:

Rev. Debra Guthrie was raised on Harker's Island, NC and is a graduate of East Carteret High School.

She has been a member of UCF for 15 years.

While living in NC she served the congregation in many volunteer roles and as the paid DRE. She

has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. Under the mentorship of Rev. Sally, she attended seminary and she received her Master of Divinity from Andover-Newton Theological School in Boston, MA. She completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Hebrew Senior Life in Boston, while also serving

First Church of Leominster as their Ministerial Intern. She studied the immigration issue at the border between Tucson, AZ and Nogales, Mexico through the Borderlinks program. She was

ordained in the Unitarian Universalist ministry at UCF on Jan 28, 2018. She has served the Aiken Unitarian Universalist Church, SC since 2016 and has recently been called as their settled minister. She is a lifetime member of NAACP and is heavily

involved in Racial Justice issues and LGBTQ rights. Her ministry draws heavily on personal story,

open honest dialogue, and close listening.





# JULY

## Worship Services

### July 25: “A Deep Dive Into The Story Of Jonah And The Whale”

- Rev. Maj-Britt Johnson, UU (retired) guest minister

Exploring the depths of this story can reveal a myriad of timely and timeless themes.

#### Bio:

Maj-Britt Johnson retired from the UU ministry in 2017, and now lives in Pine Knoll Shores NC.

While active in ministry she served congregations in Norfolk VA, Ridgewood NJ, Englewood NJ and Chapel Hill, NC, as well as working for 2+ years as Spiritual Care and bereavement Coordinator for Hospice of N.J. These days she is grateful to be of service (along with members of UCF) with the Citizens for Diversity in Education (CDE), as well as chairing the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Taskforce at Keller Williams Crystal Coast. She loves living on the Crystal Coast - as the ocean feels like her spiritual home.



# July News from your New Building Team



If you have not gone by 2900 Bridges St since the June Newsletter, you are in for a surprise! By now the slab has been poured and we have a footprint of our new Sanctuary.

Visible progress is being made on a weekly basis.

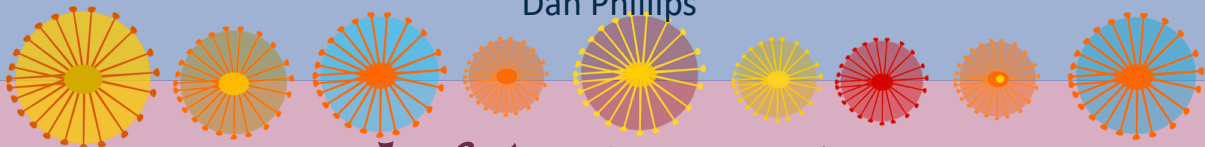
We hope the slide show during the annual meeting gave you a good idea of what the building will look like, inside and out, when completed. We feel that we're off to a good start and barring really bad weather, (I won't say the H\*\*\*\*cane word), we have a good feeling for a timely and safe construction through the summer to get under roof and weather tight.

There will be some minor construction taking place in the Annex, but for the most part this building is available for some meetings. Evening meetings should have no problem with parking. Small meetings are OK for hours when construction is taking place since we can't block the construction area or vehicles that are in our small parking lot. Parking across the street in the shopping center is one option. Parking in the Salvation Army lot will be permitted for Sunday service but our agreement with the Salvation Army does not permit parking when the Store is open Monday thru Saturday.

That being said, Welcome to the Annex!

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Phillips



## Board of Trustees Business

- We arranged for 3 outside ministers to be available in case we need emergency pastoral care during the months of July and August.
- We're planning the LC/BOT retreat on July 7th to debrief about the Constructive Conversations with the Congregation and initiate early strategic planning efforts.
- We worked together with the New Building Team to plan the Groundbreaking Ceremony at 2900 Bridges and wrote a news release for the Carteret News-Times.
  - We planned and carried out the Annual Business meeting.
- We've worked with the bank to secure the paperwork for a construction loan if needed.
- We've initiated the creation of a promissory note for the repayment of the Endowment Fund.
- We've worked with the incoming interim minister regarding relocation and employment paperwork.



## Pastoral Care Tip for July 2021:

In our first month without our beloved Reverend Sally, we grieve her absence while wishing her such happiness. Please know that during this time the Pastoral Care Team is ready to listen to you, cry with you, laugh with you and celebrate with you the many, many moments of ministry we have shared with her.

Please call, text, email any of us listed below. We are here with open arms and hearts.

**Chair: Kate Reavis** 910-358-2034 or [katereavis@yahoo.com](mailto:katereavis@yahoo.com)

**Helene Kelly** 252-269-0775 or [helenekelly1@gmail.com](mailto:helenekelly1@gmail.com)

**Holly Rogers** 509-607-2055 or [hollyer54@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyer54@yahoo.com)

**Joan Burton** 201-669-1519 or [Ldybg223@aol.com](mailto:Ldybg223@aol.com)

**Liz Morningstar** 720-215-5681 or [lizmorningstar@gmail.com](mailto:lizmorningstar@gmail.com)

**Terri Thomas** 252-314-4110 or [terriethomas00@gmail.com](mailto:terriethomas00@gmail.com)

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To Jill Sutherland and Halle Starchia and all of their family, who are mourning the death of Halle's father and Jill's love, Curtis, who succumbed to complications from drug addiction.

A concern from Judith Shure, Rev. Sally's sister in law: She was attending her former brother in law, Charlie Ward's Memorial Service in Pittsburgh. Charlie passed away in March.

## S O R R O W S

Sherry Hintze is home and recovering well from successful surgery to remove kidney stones. She and the whole Hintze family are grateful for the cards, the wonderful meals, and the care they have received from members of this UCF community.

Happy 87th birthday to Happy Ewbank  
and  
Happy Birthday to Susan Fetzer!



## UU & Friends Eco/Cultural Tour to San Ramon, Nicaragua (Feb. 6 - 13, 2022)



For more than 20 years, groups of UUs from North Carolina (and beyond) have participated in an eco-cultural tour sponsored by Sister Communities of San Ramon, Nicaragua (founded by two members of the Eno River UU Fellowship in Durham).

Participants stay at a beautiful but rustic eco-lodge and in the homes of local folks; enjoy the natural beauty of mountains, forests, waterfalls, birds, and animals; meet local farmers, artisans, and students; learn about coffee and cacao farming; and see how SCSCRN's work (rural schools, water and sanitation, and economic development) benefits the lives and welfare of the local community.

Learn more by signing up ([bit.ly/SanRamonJuly17](https://bit.ly/SanRamonJuly17)) for our information session (via Zoom) on **July 17th @ 5:00 pm**.

### *July Green Tip:*

Ah, the sounds of summer, among them the gentle buzzing of bees in the yard and garden. Beyond adding to the soundtrack of summer, bees provide essential ecosystem services. From pollination of fruits and vegetables to producing honey, bees sustain us in multiple ways. But many of our bees are in trouble. You may have heard of Colony Collapse Disorder, a mysterious phenomenon killing large numbers of our bees and putting our ecosystem at risk. Use of pesticides in our farm fields also contributes to the challenges our bees need to overcome. We can assist bees with activities such as planting an organic pollinator garden; learn more about how you can help bees at <https://thebeeconservancy.org/10-ways-to-save-the-bees/> or <https://www.planetbee.org/save-honeybees>.





# SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



Barb Thomas, Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee presents check to Edie Reed, Executive Director of Broad Street Clinic

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection for May **Broad Street Clinic**

By tradition, in every month that has five Sundays, UCF collects money for a non-profit organization (usually local) that is chosen by the Social Action Committee.

The month of May had five Sundays and we collected an amazing **\$1627** for Broad Street Clinic, which provides medical services for over 800 people in our area who are low-income and uninsured. The clinic has 12 paid staff members and over 60 volunteer providers, nurses, pharmacists, and administrative workers. The money we raised will help to meet operating expenses and keep the clinic doors open. Thank you to all who donated.

**Your generosity is just incredible.**

## UCF and Racial Justice

### Exploring Anti-Racism as a Congregation

Over the past two years, some UCF members have been reading, learning, and discussing the concepts and ideas around anti-racism, equity and social justice. In early June, UCF members and friends received a request to complete a brief survey to help us more fully understand the congregation's interest, questions, and commitment to racial justice. Thank you to those that completed this survey by June 24<sup>th</sup>. This will allow time to compile and summarize your anonymous feedback and discuss next steps which we hope to share in the August newsletter. If you did not complete the survey by the June 24<sup>th</sup> deadline, the survey link is still open and we will continue to review feedback.

The link is <https://forms.gle/eh1MCc2JWYTKr1st6>

### Recognizing and Interrupting Racism Workshop

A special thanks goes out to Liz Morningstar for leading and facilitating the "Recognizing and Interrupting Racism" workshop on June 12. This workshop included discussion and role playing on effective strategies to "call people in" rather than "calling people out" when you see or hear comments and actions that are racist and/or otherwise discriminatory and hurtful. "Calling people in" allows for dialogue and learning opportunities as opposed to "calling people out" which frequently leads to defensiveness. If you were not able to attend to June 12 session, we hope to offer this workshop again in the upcoming months.

# Children's Religious Education—July 2021

Hi Everyone!

This month is the last of our UU Seven Principles stories. Starting in August, I will be including in each month's newsletter one of the Seven Stories of UU History that everyone will read. It incorporates some of our rituals we do throughout the year such as the flower communion and water ritual. I hope you all have a wonderful July.

In spirit, may you enjoy the earth and plant a seed this summer.



## Seventh Principle

**"We believe in caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things."**

***"We Care for Earth's Lifeboat, and It Is Good"* By: Janeen K. Grohsmeyer**

On a day not so very long ago, in a place not so very far away, a grass seed lay waiting, covered by a blanket of earth. In the spring, when the air was warmed by the sun and the land was watered by the rain, the seed began to grow. It grew roots deep into the earth. It grew a delicate pale green shoot up into the air. As the days went by, the shoot grew into a firm stalk, which waved in the hot summer breeze. It grew bright green leaves that opened to the sunshine, and then grew darker green as more days went by.

It grew and grew and grew, until the seed was a tall stem of grass and was ready to make seeds on its own. In the fall, when the nights turned cool and the leaves on the trees flamed red and orange and gold, the grass plant knew it would soon be dying, and so it set free its seeds. They traveled on the wind, above field and stream and hill. Some of them slowly settled to the ground in a meadow, where they lay waiting, covered by a blanket of earth.

**And it was good.**

Now in the place not so very far away, a small field mouse was looking for food. Winter was coming, and the mouse was hungry. He went here and he went there, careful and cautious always, for there are many creatures that will eat a mouse. And as he sniffed and nibbled and then sniffed some more, he found a few of those grass seeds that lay covered by the blanket of earth. So he dug them up—*scritch, scratch!*—and he ate them. **And it was good.**

Now in that place not so very far away, a snake was hunting. Winter was coming, and she was hungry. She went here and she went there, guiding through the faded fallen leaves from the trees, and tasting the air with flickerings of her forked tongue. She tasted the scent of mouse, and followed the scent to the meadow. After a while, she found him. So she caught him—quick, snap!—in her jaws, and she ate him. **And it was good.**



## Children's Religious Education—July 2021

Now in the sky, high above that place not so very far away, a hawk was searching. Winter was coming, and the hawk was hungry. He went here and he went there, soaring on the wind with outstretched wings, looking down to the earth far below. And at the edge of the meadow, he saw the snake sliding through faded fallen leaves. So he folded his wings and he plummeted, straight down to the ground, and he caught that snake-*snatch, catch!*-in his fiercely curved claws, and he ate her. **And it was good.**

The days went by in that place not so very far away. The sun no longer warmed the air. Instead of rain, snow fell. The last of the leaves fell from the trees. The grass froze and died. Winter had come.

The hawk soared on outstretched wings, lifted high by the winter winds, hunting. But he was an old hawk. His wings did not beat so strongly as they used to. His eyes did not see so clearly. His hunts did not go well. One day, he plummeted to earth for the last time, and he died. **And it was good.**

The body of the hawk lay on the ground all winter long, covered by snow. When spring came, the sun warmed the air, and the rain watered the land. Flies buzzed in the air. Ants scurried over the ground. Spring was here, and they were hungry. The ants and the flies found the body of the hawk. The flies laid their eggs in it, and the eggs hatched into maggots. The days went by and the body of the hawk slowly disappeared, the flesh and feathers eaten by ants and maggots, the bones chewed on by small animals, and whatever was left provided food for bacteria and mold. In just a few weeks, the body of the hawk had completely melted back into the earth. **And it was good.**

Now in the earth where the hawk had melted, a seed lay waiting. As spring turned into summer, and as the sun warmed the air and the rain watered the land, the seed began to grow. It shot a pale green shoot up into the air. It pushed roots deep into the earth, which was made up from the body of the hawk, who had eaten the snake, who had eaten the mouse, who had eaten the seeds. **And it was good.**



So remember, in that place not so very far away, and in all the places all around there is sun, and there is rain. There are seeds and mice and snakes and hawks. There are ants and maggots and bacteria and mold. There are crocodiles and humans and plankton and daffodils and mushrooms. They all eat from each other. They all live, and they all die.

**And it is all good.**

The End.

# Adult Religious Education

## UCF Book Group

The June meeting of the UCF book group has been rescheduled for July. We will be discussing Transcendent Kingdom by Yaa Gyasi, a deeply layered novel about a Ghanaian family that resettled in Alabama. This fascinating book has many themes including family, race, displacement, religion and science. We will meet on Saturday, July 17 at 11:00 a.m. in Pat Harms' beautiful backyard by Calico Creek, weather permitting. If it's rainy or too hot to be outside, we will meet via Zoom.

Feel free to join us for any or all of our discussions. To learn more about our UCF book group, contact Susan Roberts ([landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com) or 843-217-1885).



## Women's Discussion Group

We have a special treat in store for our July Women's Discussion Group! Guerry Willis has invited us to meet at her house. (107 Oakmont Court, Morehead City, NC 28557 in Brandywine Bay.)



Bring your lunch and we will get together at 12:30 on Wednesday, July 7.

We have an interesting and perhaps entertaining or embarrassing discussion question for July:

**What is the craziest thing your parent or parents ever did? (Or the craziest thing you think they might have done.)**

**Please bring a photo of your parents with you.** I am looking forward to hearing about your parents escapades and seeing their photographs!

If you are not on the Women's Discussion Group email list and would like to be, contact Susan Roberts at [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com) or 843-217-1885.



**YOGA—Wednesdays at  
9AM with Harriet Altman**

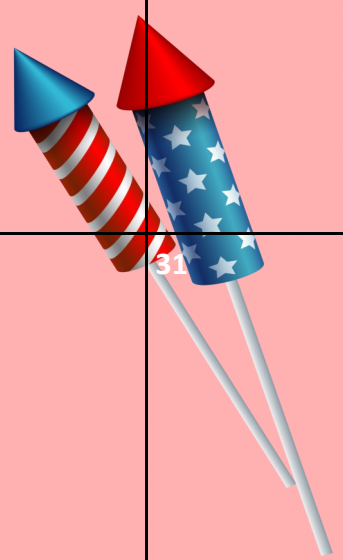
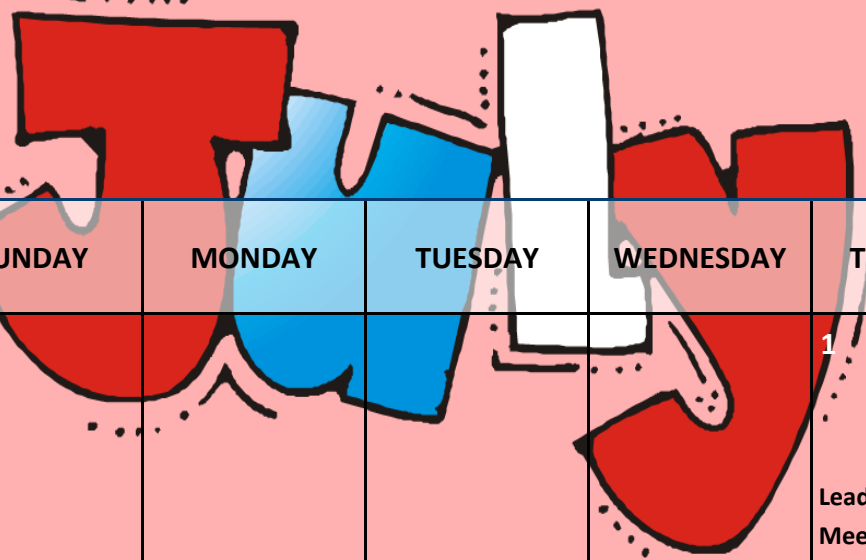
**MEDITATION—Mondays at  
6:15PM with Kate Reavis**

## 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. Meetings are now being held in person on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 to 4:00. If you would like to join these meetings or would like more information, please contact Susan Roberts at 843-217-1885 or at [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Leadership Council Meeting 10AM	2	3
4 Stories for All Ages 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 Guided Meditation 6:15PM	6 Worship Committee 12PM	7 Yoga 9AM Women's Discussion Group 12:30PM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	8 Anti-Racist Reading Group 12:30PM	9	10
11 Stories for All Ages 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM	12 Guided Meditation 6:15PM	13	14 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	15	16	17 Book Club 11AM
18 Stories for All Ages 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM	19 Guided Meditation 6:15PM	20	21 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	22	23	24
25 Stories for All Ages 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM	26 Guided Meditation 6:15PM	27	28 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	29	30	31



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**Newsletter:** Jamie DeRose [ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ucfofficeassistant@gmail.com)



**Contact us!**

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