

# OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship  
Morehead City, NC

AUGUST 2021



Dear friends,

Greetings!

*Greetings from Michelle!*

As I write this, I am in my home office, surrounded by boxes and papers that still need to be shredded. I'm in a stage of mixed excitement and nervousness—as perhaps you are as well—as I look toward a future with many possibilities and unknowns. Melva wrote so skillfully in her last letter about interim ministry, and I'm grateful to her for that because it frees me to talk about *my* style in particular.

While I will be your minister for the time being, *you* are the ones who are making the decisions about your church and its future. My role is to act as a sort of moral compass and spiritual guide, reminding everyone of our highest aspirations as people of faith and as Unitarian Universalists. Interim ministers (and other ministers as well) often talk about “holding up the mirror” to the congregation: I reflect back to the congregation my experience of them, and the congregation sees if that matches their experience of themselves—and if that's the experience that they want others to have!

I rarely give advice and prefer to ask questions, and the interim period is all about answering the big questions: Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going? I—and the Transition Team—will listen for the answers to those questions over the course of the next two years. I like to use a process called Appreciative Inquiry, where we focus on strengths and what is going well, and dream together about what else might be possible.

Also, I am well aware that change is very, very hard. Even in the best of times it is exhausting and nerve-racking. Two years is not a lot of time, and I also see no reason to rush. As the saying goes, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”

And finally, a little bit about me, as a person: I was born in Los Angeles County and lived my adult life in the San Francisco Bay Area, which was also where I discovered Unitarian Universalism. I moved to the Cleveland area in 2018 to take a position as intern minister at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, where I fell in love with interim ministry. I then spent two years completing seven units of Clinical Pastoral Education as a chaplain trainee at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, where I gained experience working with a wide range of people and learned to listen to not only words but also emotions. In my spare time, I like to cycle, take walks, play Pokémon Go, cook, try new foods, and paint. I look forward to learning how to kayak, eating plenty of fresh seafood, and taking walks in the Croatan National Forest with—I hope!—my new dog.

And most of all, I look forward to being with you, in whatever form that takes.

Blessings

## 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.

~ Rev. Michelle Ma

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy August My Friends,

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the 2021 UUA General Assembly. Attending GA is always a highlight of my year as it enables me to reinvigorate my faith and address subjects that are important to me.

Expanding on last year's theme of *Draw the Circle Wide*, this year's GA theme was *Circle Round: Justice, Healing, Courage*. This year, every service, seminar, and meeting I attended demonstrated the enactment of principles outlined in the Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change. Every leader identified themselves within the human family and in relation to others, and a focus was brought to bridging differences. A connection was made to indigenous people and the land currently occupied by the speaker. Harmony with the earth was highlighted. The value of all ages, cultures, abilities, gender identities, and contributions surfaced in each topic.

Practically every seminar I attended highlighted the use of worship to expand how we view social justice and equity within our congregations and within the larger society. A seminar, entitled "Beyond Belonging: Transforming Community," demonstrated how worship could help uncover the various Truths about human relationships and expand our knowledge about the realities faced by our fellow travelers. Showing more empathy for those who are different transforms communities and strengthens our commitment to equity.

Another seminar I attended, entitled "Pedagogy Matters: New Directions in Teaching Racial Self-Knowledge," suggested clear and demonstrable success when education and worship worked in tandem to teach anti-racism. Together, for example, religious education and worship can teach the realities of White Supremacist culture, while providing a means for self-examination about racial attitudes and behaviors. Congregants are able to learn from their heads and their hearts, and their spirits can thrive from the endeavor.

The last seminar I'll mention here was entitled "Questioning Cultural Norms: Committing to Equity". True equity dwarfs every offer of equality. Equity requires that we learn how different kinds of people value different things. Furthermore, it requires that we actually find value in the values of others. This seminar suggested that worship and other programs commit to teaching the goal of equity by helping congregants be more aware of cultural norms different from their own and how those norms offer social and spiritual value to all of us.

Finally, the Ware Lecturers focused on Voting Rights. The first speaker was Stacey Abrams from Fair Fight Action in Georgia. She inspired me to imagine what could be done, even if it takes a long time to achieve and there are many failures along the way. The second speaker was Desmond Meade from Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, who was instrumental in helping restore the vote to returning citizens after they complete parole. He shared many stories about the emotion felt by these men and women when what had been taken away is again restored. I hope this brief overview provided you a glimpse of the evolving nature of our UU faith.

All the best!

~Melva



# AUGUST 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)

## **August 1: "Focus on the Faith Triangle" - Rev. Gerald Godette, guest minister**

How do we serve in relationship to each other, and to God? Rev. Godette will focus on text from Ephesians 4: 2-3; "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

**BIO:** Rev. Gerald Godette is ordained by the AME Zion Church, and serves 2 congregations in Aurora, NC. He is a Carteret County native, living in Morehead City with his wife Lynn. They have 3 grown children. Rev. Godette has long been active in the community, serving on the Morehead City Planning Board, The Carteret Community Theater, and the Rotary Club. He ran for County Commissioner in 2018, and currently serves on the Carteret County Board of Elections. Rev. Godette graduated from NC A & T University, works in marine research for Alderon Biosciences in Beaufort, and he is deeply interested in environmental issues locally and worldwide. Rev. Godette gave us a message last year about the intersection of science and faith, well received by the congregation. Rev. Godette is a member of the AAHECS (African American Historical Educational Cultural Society), is Vice President of the Carteret County unit of the NAACP and has served as Choir Director and song writer.

## **August 8: "Building for Bridges" - Guerry Willis, Karen Baggot and the New Building Team (NBT)**

How did our Unitarian Coastal Fellowship get here and where are we headed? The New Building Team will reflect on building for our hopes and dreams in our new home on Bridges Street."

## **August 15: "The Responsive Universe" - Rev. David Morris, UU guest minister**

Through touch, taste, smell, vision, and hearing, our senses take us out to meet the Universe. Remarkably, it seems the Universe reaches back toward us.

**BIO:** The Rev. David Morris is the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Outer Banks in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. He has served with congregations in California and Virginia. Ordained in 2001, Rev. David has a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School and a Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University. He has served our Association as a member of the Southeast District's original Anti-Racism Transformation Team, the UUA Council for Cross-Cultural Engagement, and in other activities.

## **August 22: "Truth" - Worship Committee members Tom Wentworth, MaryAnna Newman, Daryl Walker**

21-year-old U.S. track star Sha'Carri Richardson recently qualified to run the women's individual 100m event in the Tokyo Summer Olympics. It was subsequently revealed that she had tested positive for use of marijuana, a banned substance. This led to her disqualification from participation in any Olympic events this summer. Then, Sha'Carri did something that stunned many and also drew praise from supporters around the world: she very publicly admitted to using marijuana when distraught after learning from a reporter about the death of her biological mother, shortly before the qualifiers. In exploring this story, we will consider the concept of truth and its foundational role in establishing the inherent worth and dignity of every person, with a focus on how we achieve personal integrity through truth.

## **August 29: "International Day of Peace" - Worship Committee member Meganne Smith**

September 21<sup>st</sup> will mark the celebration of the International Day of Peace. Whether it be peace of mind, inner peace, lack of war, lack of violence, presence of justice, or what peace can look like in our day-to-day life, Meganne will explore peace in this worship service.

## August News from your New Building Team

Last month we all had our spirits lifted by the start of work at 2900 Bridges. The slab is now complete and waiting for the carpenters to start framing the building. The framing was put on hold for two weeks to give our roof truss builder time to catch up with his backlog of orders. We are told the roof trusses are being built and our general contractor now feels confident in starting the building frame. The reason that the trusses need to be on site and ready to install as soon as the walls are in place is for stability. There is no good way to keep the walls up without the roof trusses in place to tie everything together. Especially here on the coast.

Robert, manager for our project, will be at one of our early August meetings along with an interior design specialist. The NBT will meet with Robert for our monthly construction status update and to talk over the latest issues concerning the construction. We usually have a few questions or requests for Robert. It is amazing how many little things are involved to make this building the way we all want it to be.

The Fixtures and Furnishing Committee will meet with the interior design person to go over color schemes. They will be tying everything together. What is the best color for each of rooms? What will the base color scheme be for the floor color and color for the (almost) soundproof folding door/partition between the sanctuary and social hall? And let's not forget the kitchen counter top, restroom partitions and other items that I don't even know about. The FFC has their hands full.

By the end of August, we hope to have a recognizable building on site. The months to finish can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

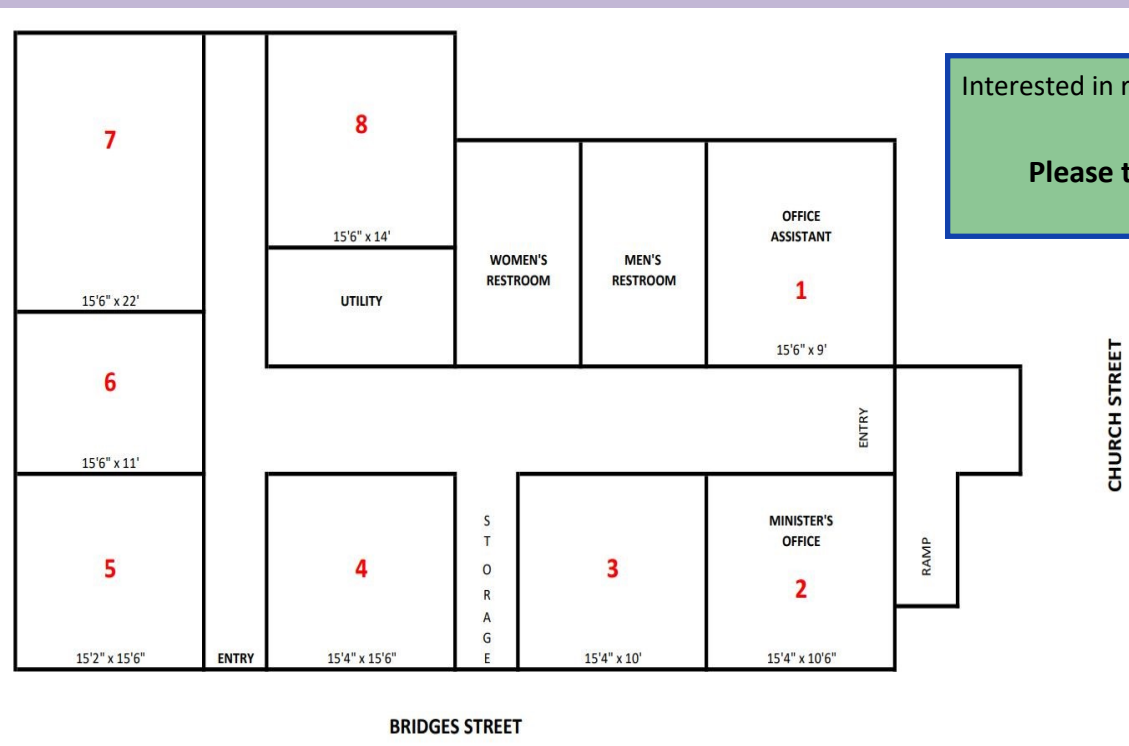
On Sunday, August 8 members of your NBT will give our church service.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Phillips



*...speaking of the new building...*



Interested in reserving a room in the new building?

**Please take a look at this floor plan!**

For consistency, these room numbers can be used to book rooms.

Please email [ucofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ucofficeassistant@gmail.com) with your preferred room number, date, and time to reserve!

If you have previously asked to reserve a room, please make sure the room NUMBER is known to [ucofficeassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ucofficeassistant@gmail.com)

This floor plan will be posted in the new building for reference. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie DeRose.



## Board of Trustees Business

- \*On behalf of the congregation, Melva signed the papers for a Construction Loan for \$150,000 with First Citizens Bank. This loan enables UCF to use the money if costs go beyond what has been collected to pay for the building project. Smithson Builders required that we have this money available for any cost overruns. It is the Board's intention to see that no money be needed from this loan to properly complete our project, thereby avoiding the need for expensive monthly payments.
- \*On behalf of the congregation, our Treasurer Dave Hughes prepared a Promissory Note for repayment of the Endowment Fund borrowed to help pay for the building project; and on behalf of the congregation, Melva signed that Promissory Note. The terms of that Note include the "Promise to Pay" the total amount of \$125,299.83 together with interest at the rate of 2% per annum. "Repayment" is detailed as follows: "The amount owed under this Promissory Note will be repaid in equal interest-only installments of \$208.83 made every month for a period not to exceed five years. The remaining principal balance shall then be repaid in equal monthly payments of \$806.32 for a period of fifteen years or until the principal is repaid. The first payment will be due on 01/31/2022. All payments shall be first applied to interest and the balance to principal."
- \*The Board voted to pave the parking lot at 2900 Bridges St. with a combination of asphalt and ecoraster to be consistent with UCF's commitment to be good stewards of the earth.
- \*A typographical mistake related to survey measurements has been discovered on the deed to the property at 2900 Bridges St. To avoid issues during title search in the event of the future sale of the property, an attorney has been hired to fix the mistake and refile the deed.
- \*The Board has decided that in-person meetings can be scheduled at the Sunday School Building at 2900 Bridges St. Please see the floor plan in the page above to calendar such meetings with our Office Assistant, Jamie DeRose.

### **Support the PLANT IT FORWARD program of CFHC's Food Waste and Recovery Program**

Don't forget about the food pantries if you have extra vegetables from your garden!

Take them to Olde Beaufort Farmers' Market  
by 1PM on Saturdays

OR

Call/email Daryl for weekday pickup at 919.219.9840 or  
dfwalker22@gmail.com

### **LAST CALL for long-sleeve T-Shirts for Farmworkers!**

Through AUGUST 30, you can bring them to:

\*Tienda Mexicana on Bridges St near Williams Hardware

\*Democratic Headquarters

\*Coastal Community Market on Broad St. in Beaufort

### **ALERT!**

Be on the lookout over the next several months for scam emails that say they're from Rev. Michelle, asking you to help her out by buying some gift cards.

Rev. Michelle will NEVER, EVER ask you to buy her gift cards, and certainly not via email.

These scammers have been preying on congregations with new ministers who they don't know very well yet.

Don't fall for it!

# ONLINE DIRECTORY OF UCF CONGREGATION MEMBERS

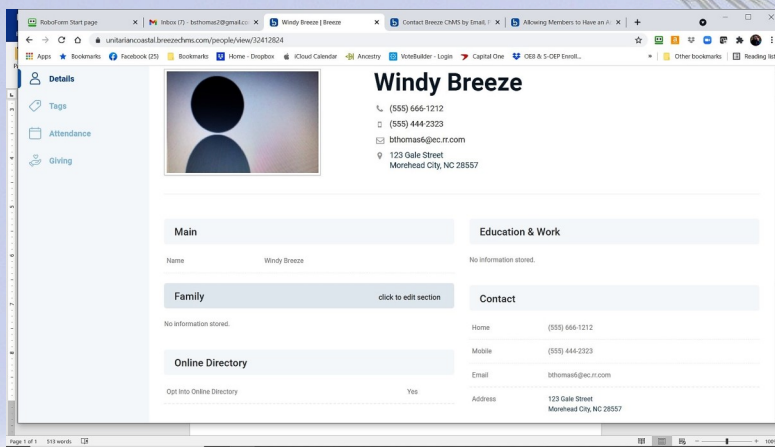
UCF is ready to set up an **online Directory of Members and Friends** so you can easily look up an email address, mailing address, or phone number of a member of the congregation. The online Directory will be through the Breeze website and is simple to access.

**If you have already set up your Breeze account**, just log into Breeze (<https://unitariancoastal.breezechms.com/login>) , go to “My Profile” and hover over the Online Directory section on the bottom left. Click on “click to edit section” and you will see a question asking if you want to “Opt-in” to the Directory. Opting in means that you would like your contact information to be available to other members of the congregation. Select your answer.

When you click on “People” at the top of the page, you will get a list of all those who have opted in and you can click on their names to get to their profiles. Don’t forget to upload a picture to your profile!

**For those of you who have not yet set up your account**, here is a link that you can use to set it up on your own: <https://unitariancoastal.breezechms.com/login/create>. It will ask you to enter your name (first and last) and email address. If the name and email address you put in match what is in the database, you will get a message saying it was successful. Then go to your email and you will see an email telling you how to finish setting up. If your name and email did not match, contact Barb Thomas (see contact info below).

**There will be a demo on how to set up an account and access the Online Directory at 10:00 AM (before the service) on August 1<sup>st</sup>**, using the service Zoom link and **another demo immediately after the service on August 8<sup>th</sup>**, before the AfterWords. Both of these will be a quick 10-15 minute demo because of the time constraints, but If you have any questions, you can email or call Barb Thomas ([bsthomas2@gmail.com](mailto:bsthomas2@gmail.com) or 252-422-1354) and she will help you and can set you up with a member of the Breeze team who can work with you one-on-one.



**On August 15 the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of New Bern will be going out to the ballgame!**

**At 10:30 Rev Charlie Davis will be preaching on the Spirituality of Baseball. We are holding in person Services at 308 Meadows Street, New Bern. The service can be watched live on the UUFNB Facebook page or on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87008349327>**

**At 1 PM We will be at Grainger field 400 East Grainger Ave. Kinston, NC, 28504 (at the corner of Vernon Ave. and M.L. King Jr. Blvd) We will be sitting in Section 1. The Down East Wood Ducks will be taking on the Carolina Mudcats. We invite area UUs to Join us.**

**Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased on line Down East Wood Ducks Single Game Tickets | Wood Ducks ([milb.com](http://milb.com)) or at the box office on gameday**

*Take UUs  
Out to the  
Ballgame!*





# CRYSTAL COAST PROUD

**Meet and Greet Cookout**  
**August 7 from 1:00-4:00**  
**MLK, Jr. Park, Morehead City**

The mission of Crystal Coast Proud, a non-profit organization of diverse LGBTQIA+ youth, adults and allies, is to spread the message of equality and inclusion through outreach, events and community support. This is a relatively new group in Carteret County and they are hosting a Meet and Greet Cookout on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 pm at Martin Luther King, Jr. City Park in Morehead City. There will be free food and drinks, music and give-a-ways.

If you are available, please attend this family friendly event to learn more about Crystal Coast Proud, network with fellow LGBTQIA+ members and allies, and demonstrate UCF's continued commitment to being a *Welcoming Congregation*.



## U C F N e w s

Please keep Martha Naset, her mother Peggy Bourne, and siblings lifted up as her younger brother Joe Bourne was moved into hospice parameters. His treatments for Glioblastoma have been ongoing but are no longer possible. The family has rallied, are clearing calendars and preparing her sister's home to make Joe the most comfortable he can be. Cards can be sent to Martha for forwarding.

Bill Rubel would like to extend an invitation to join in prayer energy to illuminate his mother's transition.

Bill's mother passed away last month.

J

O

Sherri Hintz, was scheduled for a kidney procedure Wednesday, July 14th

Y

Tom Willis was scheduled for a Cardioversion on Monday, July 12th

## S O R R O W S

UCF member Barbara Bergman passed away on Thursday, July 22nd at Cherry Point Bay Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Havelock.

She was 88 years old.

In lieu of a service, Barbara's wishes were to have her ashes returned to California to be with her daughters.

Barbara will be remembered for her sense of style and colorful outfits as well as for her sense of humor and her love for our congregation.

We will miss her tremendously!



There is Joy for the Sutherlands!

Jill's service dog, Honor, survived a very scary emergency surgery with only a 20% chance of making it through surgery. We are thrilled to say that Honor is recovering at home with lots of love.

Sarah Grenier shares Joy that her daughter, Summer Rae Wax, celebrated her first birthday on July 9th!

**Thank you to all who participated in our anti-racism instrument!**  
**We are excited to share the information with you and with Reverend Ma.**



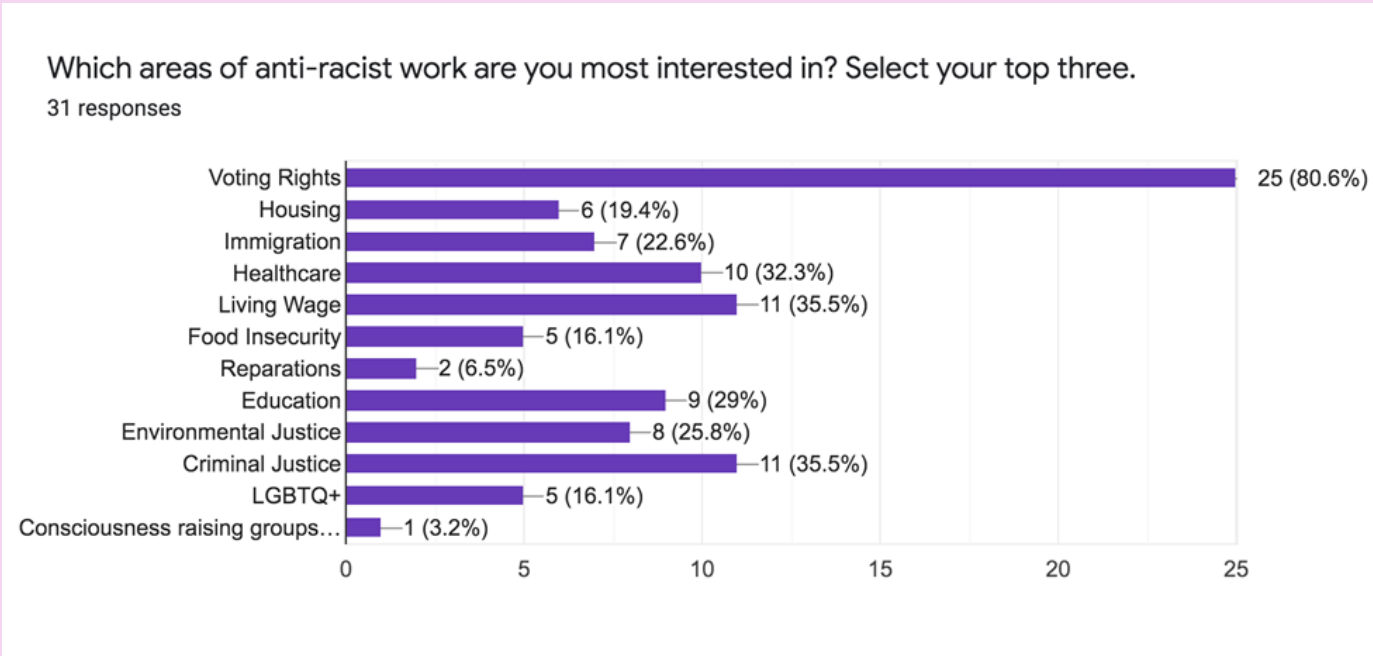
Over 90% of respondents strongly agreed that it was important for our congregation to work toward a more racially just country and the responses were evenly split between those who were more drawn to mobilizing individuals for a single event or action and those who were interested in organizing a prolonged campaign focused on changing a policy.

The top three actions/events of interest were:

- \* Learning how to talk about race with others
- \* Exploring and addressing personal bias
- \* Bystander Intervention Training (learning how to intervene when witnessing an instance of racism)

While the individual actions and reflections are important, there are dedicated group of individuals (approximately 10) who are excited and passionate about moving towards action at the local, state, and national level. One respondent remarked, *"It seems like the time is right (and probably overdue) for our congregation to take on these issues. We have a strong core of people who have been studying antiracism for some time and we need to allow them to lead us in activities that will promote change in our congregation, community, state and nation."*

It is clear from the data (see below) that voting rights is the most critical topic and thus a great avenue for focusing our anti-racism efforts in a meaningful way.



If you were not able to participate in the instrument, or have more information you would like to share, please contact Liz Morningstar at [lizmorningstar@gmail.com](mailto:lizmorningstar@gmail.com).



# SOCIAL ACTION

August 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collection

## Carteret Long Term Recovery Alliance



When Hurricane Florence hit eastern NC in September 2018, Carteret County recorded historic amounts of rain and storm surge that produced catastrophic flooding. Many homes and lives were devastated including many of the county's vulnerable populations who were living in low-lying, at-risk locations.

In response, residents of Carteret County met for the first time in October 2018 and formed the Carteret County Long Term Recovery Alliance (CLTRA). CLTRA is a nonprofit alliance of volunteers from community service organizations, local government and non-government organizations, and faith communities. CLTRA is the recognized Long Term Recovery Team serving Carteret County and is focused on helping our community recover following disasters. CLTRA is comprised of volunteers committed to addressing all areas of disaster management including disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Almost three years after Hurricane Florence, many homes are still damaged and some of our neighbors remain displaced. CLTRA currently has 340 open cases that have damages associated with Hurricane Florence and many of these still have significant needs. CLTRA volunteers also responded to the COVID pandemic by making "COVID Caring Calls" to over 300 households trying to recover from hurricane damages. These calls were to assess if COVID had added food and financial insecurities and if so, to connect the household to local food banks, community resources and volunteers when possible.

CLTRA relies on donations and 100% of individual donations are used to address long-term and unmet recovery needs in Carteret County. During the month of August, please donate as you can to help us



support this very worthy and needed organization. You can donate in the usual ways: mail a check to UCF Treasurer at PO Box 425, Morehead City, 28557 (put 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the memo line); call Dave Hughes and make arrangements for credit card payment; or use the "Donate" button on the bottom of the pages of our website (<https://www.ucfnc.org/>) and select "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday".

Also, if you are interested in volunteering with CLTRA or would like more Information, please contact Amy Jones, UCF Co-Chair Social Action and CLTRA Volunteer Case Management Coordinator, at [amjones0912@gmail.com](mailto:amjones0912@gmail.com).

# Children's Religious Education

Hi everyone!

There is a group of members and friends starting to plan for the furnishings and finishing's for the Fellowship sanctuary, social hall and the Sunday School Building. If you would like to part of the team that will be ordering items, decorating of the fellowship building, sprucing up children's furniture, painting and decorating the children's rooms with themes, and organizing rooms, we would love to have you join us. Please let me know at [ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com) or call me at 603-254-5559.

This month I will start a seven-part series of our UU History and how we came to be. There are many more stories to be told that may become part of our UU history in the future as well as possibly other principles added to our original seven. Let us begin:

## ***A Unitarian King: The Edict of Torda – 1568***

**By: Janeen K. Grohsmeyer**

Long ago, far across the sea in the country of Poland, a land of wind-swept plains and great flowing rivers, there lives a king, named King Sigismund, and a queen, named Queen Bona.

They had a daughter, whose name was Princess Isabella. As Isabella grew, the king and the queen taught her to be a good and wise ruler over all of the people in the land.

When Princess Isabella was grown, a king from a neighboring country asked for her hand in marriage, and her parents said yes. Isabella was excited to be marrying King John of Hungary, until she realized that she would have to leave home.



*King Sigismund and Queen Bona Sforza*

"I shall miss you, Mother," Isabella said, suddenly wishing that she did not have to go.

"And I shall miss you," her mother replied. "But some of your friends are going with you, and if you ever have need, I will send my good friend Dr. Biandrata to you. He will watch over you if you are ill, and he will give you counsel when you are well."



*King John and Queen Isabella*

Her father kissed her on the forehead, and her mother kissed her on the cheek, saying, "Go with God, my daughter, and be a good wife to your new husband, and a wise queen of your new land, as we have taught you to be."

And so, with her parents' blessing and with her friend by her side, Isabella set out with a glad heart and a strong will, determined to be a good wife to her new husband, and a wise queen of her new land.

The wedding was glorious, and Princess Isabella of Poland became Queen Isabella of Hungary. And soon, Isabella had another title, for she gave birth to a little boy, and she became a mother as well as a queen. They named the little boy John Sigismund, after his father, King John of Hungary, and after his grandfather, King Sigismund of Poland.

Isabella wanted to be a wise and good queen, and to help all of the people, but the land of Hungary was torn by great wars. The king fought with other kings. The nobles fought with each other. This group of people fought with that group of people, and those people fought with these. Everywhere, people complained about taxes, they argued about religion, and they fought about land. Sometimes they fought about simply getting enough to eat. They fought and they fought and they fought, and many people died.

Isabella's husband was away fighting when their baby was born. "Come home," she wrote to him. "Come home and see our son." But King John became sick and died when their baby was only two weeks old, and he never saw his son.



The nobles elected the baby prince as their new king and cried, “All hail King John Sigismund of Hungary!” But young King John was much too young to rule a country torn by war. Other kings from other countries took most of Hungary away from John and kept it for themselves. Isabella and young John ended up living in a small eastern corner of the kingdom, a place beyond the forests, a grassy plain surrounded by high mountains and watered by quick, rushing streams, a land called Transylvania.

And there, in the only corner of the kingdom that was left to them, Isabella lived with her son, John, and with her mother’s friend Dr. Biandrata. As John grew, Isabella and Dr. Biandrata taught him, as Isabella’s parents had taught her, to be a good and wise ruler over all of the people in the land.

But the wars didn’t stop while John was growing up. The people were still fighting, sometimes with other countries, sometimes with each other. They still complained about taxes, and they still argued about religion. Different people followed different religions in Transylvania, and none of them seemed to get along. The Catholics were arguing with the Lutherans, the Lutherans were arguing with the Greek Orthodox, the Greek Orthodox were arguing with the Calvinists, the Calvinists were arguing with the Catholics. . .it just went on and on and on.

In 1557, Queen Isabella issued a new law in the name of her son the king. The law said that people could talk about and discuss religion, but they must not argue – and certainly never fight - about religion anymore.

Two years later, Isabella died. John was nineteen. Now he had to rule by himself. He wanted to be a wise and good king, and to help all the people, just as his mother had tried to do, but the people were still arguing about religion.

“What should we do?” young King John asked one of his advisors, a gray-bearded old noble with a cane. “How can we stop the fighting?”

“One king, one country!” the advisor declared, stomping his cane on the ground. “Just as they do in France and Spain! One king, one country, one religion! We must choose one religion for Transylvania. Everyone will follow it, and then we will have no more fighting.”

King John didn’t think that would work, but something obviously had to be done. Talking was better than arguing, and so, as his mother and Dr. Biandrata had suggested, King John invited preachers from different religions to come to his court and talk about religion, and they came. Dr. Biandrata invited his friend Francis Dávid (*pronounced DA-veed*), and he came. The preachers talked. . . and talked and talked and talked. Sometimes, they gave up talking to argue with each other, and sometimes they argued so much that King John was afraid they would give up arguing to start sighting, maybe even with swords!

But the talks went on, day after day, and no one was hurt. One man talked very well, and he convinced people in every discussion that he had. That man was Francis Dávid, Dr. Biandrata’s friend. Nowadays, we would call Francis Dávid’s religion Unitarianism, because he said that God was one being instead of three. He said God was a Unity, not a Trinity. King John decided he liked Francis Dávid and he liked the religion too. He decided to become a Unitarian, and in the year 1569, he did.

“One king, one country, one religion!” the old noble had said, but, “We need not think alike to love alike,” Francis Dávid said, and King John agreed. He wanted to be a good and wise ruler over all of the people in the land. At a meeting in the town of Torda, he issued the Edict of Torda, a special law. The law said that no one shall be reviled for their religion by anyone,” and he allowed the people of Transylvania to choose the religion they thought was best for them.

On the fourteenth of January, 1571, King John Sigismund, the first and only Unitarian king in history, declared that Unitarianism was one of the official religions of his realm in Transylvania, and that people could worship as they chose. And even today, in that place beyond the forests called Transylvania, which is now part of the country of Romania, there are Unitarian churches, the oldest Unitarian churches in the world. Unitarians have lived there for over four hundred years, and Unitarians live there still.



## More About the Edict of Torda Adapted by Sarah Sutherland

Queen Isabella died in 1559. In 1568, King John issued an Edict of Torda that confirmed and strengthened the edict the Queen established in 1557 and is sometimes referred to as "The Edict of Religious Toleration." He and most of his court converted to Unitarianism in 1569. On January 14, 1571, John declared Unitarianism a "received" [official] religion on his realm, along with Catholicism, Lutheranism, and Calvinism. The next day he was hurt in a carriage accident. He died from his injuries a few months later, at age thirty-one.



King John Sigismund (1540-1571)  
*The only Unitarian king in history, King John of Transylvania signed the historic "Edict of Torda" granting religious toleration in the country and allowing people of different faiths to worship.*

After King John's death, Unitarianism was sometimes tolerated, sometimes persecuted. Francis Dávid was convicted of heretical innovations to the Unitarian religion and died in the dungeon at Deva. Today, there are eighty thousand Unitarians in Romania.

Note: The Edict of Torda was a decree that authorized local communities to freely elect their preachers in the eastern Hungarian Kingdom of King John Sigismund Zápolya. This decree was an unprecedented act of religious tolerance. The delegates of the Three Nations of Transylvania – the Hungarian nobles, Transylvanian Saxons, and Szekelys – adopted it at the request of the monarch's Antitrinitarian court preacher, Ferenc Dávid in Torda. There is much more to read on your own if you choose to do so on the Edict of Torda.

Next week I will be bringing you the story: John Murray Comes to America 1770 *The Wind of Change*.

Take care and be well,

Sarah

## August Green Tip:

August is harvest time! Here in North Carolina we seem surrounded by bounty – local farmer's markets abound with beautiful produce and fresh seafood. But it's also a time to remember that everyone is not able to enjoy this abundance. In Carteret County many families daily face food insecurity. How to help? The Plant It Forward program, sponsored by the Carteret Food and Health Council, encourages home gardeners to plant extra to provide produce to local food pantries during the growing season. If you have extra produce from your home garden, you can take it to Lerzan's Embell stand at the Beaufort Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings, and she will distribute the food. Contact Daryl Walker (919-219-9840) for more information about this program and if you wish to donate during the week. Also, monetary donations to the Food Bank of North Carolina ([www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org)) or a local food pantry (<https://www.emeraldisle-nc.org/Data/Sites/1/media/carteret-county-food-assistance-brochure.-2020.pdf>) are welcome; you can rest assured your donation will be well spent toward helping our neighbors!



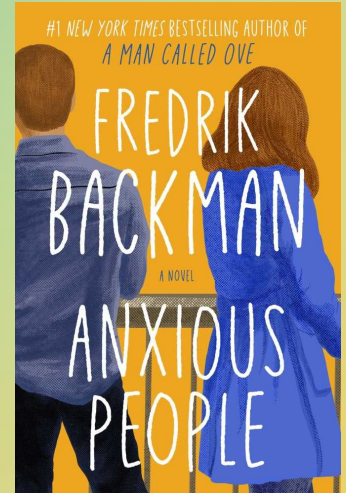


# Adult Education

## UCF Book Club

For our August discussion the UCF book group has chosen, Anxious People by Fredrik Backman, the author of A Man Called Ove. This book is described as "a poignant comedy about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they imagined." We will meet on Saturday, August 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the shade in Pat Harms' beautiful backyard by Calico Creek, weather permitting.

Our book selection for September is The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd. Feel free to join us for any or all of our discussions. We would love to have you. To learn more about our UCF book group, contact Susan Roberts ([landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com) or 843-217-1885).



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 being held on Zoom 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)

### MEDITATION

Mondays at 6:15PM



### YOGA

Wednesdays at 9AM

## Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Discussion Group will now be meeting on Mondays. After August, we will meet the second Monday of the month. Our August meeting will be Monday, August 23 at 12:30 at Guerry Willis' house. (Directions to Guerry's house are below.) Bring your lunch and we will enjoy each others company and tackle our discussion question: **What was your most humbling experience?** Definitely food for thought!

Guerry lives at 107 Oakmont Court, Morehead City, NC 28557 in Brandywine Bay. (From 24, enter on the golf course side. Take the first left on Lord Granville. Go Right on Oakmont Drive. Oakmont Drive is on the second right after the stop sign. Oakmont Court is on the left. From 70, go right onto Lord Granville. Go left onto Oakmont Drive. Oakmont Drive is the 1st left. Oakmont Court is on the left.) It's the blue/grey contemporary. You can park in the driveway or on the cul-de sac.

If you would like more information about the Women's Discussion Group or would like to be added to our email list, contact Susan Roberts at [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com) or 843-217-1885.

## Pastoral Care Tip for August 2021

We all know how hot it can be here in August, and that drinking water is a great antidote for beating the heat.

But did you know drinking water can help you think more clearly and elevate your mood?

It's also great for losing weight, burning fat, burning calories and is a natural appetite suppressant. So drink to and for your health!



**Helene Kelly**

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**Holly Rogers**

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

**Liz Morningstar**

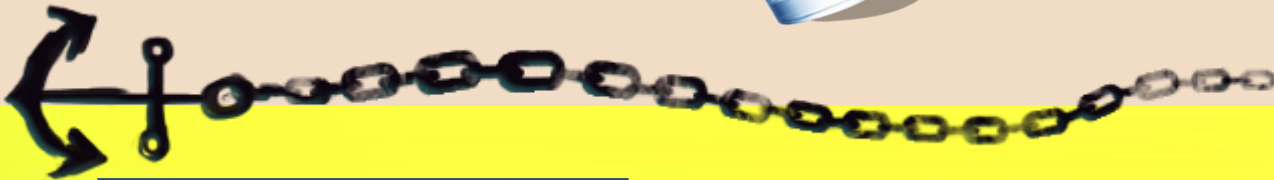
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## NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

### Sarah Grenier

Sarah was born in Jacksonville, NC where her father served in the Marine Corps. She grew up in NC, GA, AL, NH, and MD.

She went to Croatan High School and the UNC School of the Arts. She started to major in art at UNC Chapel Hill, but she changed majors and schools. She graduated with a BS in Dietetics from Appalachian State University. In college, she found Unitarianism and tried out the congregation in Boone, NC. For her capstone internship at Carteret Health Care, she met Susan Fetzer who told her about UCF!

After college, Sarah joined the Army and served six years earning her master's degree in nutrition from Baylor University and her dietetic license. She was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX and Fort Jackson in Columbia, SC.

She married her high school sweetheart, James Wax. They had their son Allen while stationed at Fort Jackson. Allen is now 4 years old and loves swimming, art, baking, playing with his cousins, and driving his toy jeep. Sarah was a member at the Unitarian congregation in Columbia where Allen had his dedication.

After the Army, Sarah and her family moved back home to Cape Carteret a few months before COVID-19 started. They had their daughter, Summer, during the pandemic, and she just had her first birthday.

Summer loves books, playing in the waves, and eating! Currently, Sarah is a stay-at-home mom and serves on the Cape Carteret planning board.

She is looking forward to meeting the members and volunteering!







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Breeze Demo 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM	<b>2</b>  <b>Guided Meditation</b> 6:15PM	<b>3</b>  <b>Worship Committee</b> 12PM  Board of Trustees 2PM	<b>4</b>  Yoga 9AM  Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	<b>5</b>  <b>Leadership Council</b> Meeting 10AM	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>  Crystal Coast Proud 1PM
<b>8</b> <b>Stories for All Ages</b> 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM Breeze Demo 11:30AM	<b>9</b>  <b>Guided Meditation</b> 6:15PM	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b>  Yoga 9AM  Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	<b>12</b>  Anti-Racist Reading Group 12:30PM	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> <b>Stories for All Ages</b> 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM UU Baseball 1PM	<b>16</b>  <b>Guided Meditation</b> 6:15PM	<b>17</b>  Green Sanctuary Focus Group 1PM	<b>18</b>  Yoga 9AM  Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>  Book Club 11AM
<b>22</b> <b>Stories for All Ages</b> 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM Adult RE Committee 4PM	<b>23</b> Women's Discussion Group 12:30PM  <b>Guided Meditation</b>	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>  Yoga 9AM  Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	<b>26</b>  <b>Social Action</b> 10AM	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b> <b>Stories for All Ages</b> 10AM Worship Service 10:30AM	<b>30</b>  <b>Guided Meditation</b> 6:15PM	<b>31</b> 				

## **Board of Trustees:**

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And Barb Thomas [bsthomas2@gmail.com](mailto:bsthomas2@gmail.com)

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And Holly Rogers [hollyer54@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyer54@yahoo.com)

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**Music Committee:** Tom Cullison [trcullison@gmail.com](mailto:trcullison@gmail.com)

**Care Circle Coordinator:** Pam Holliday [pamelalaholliday@gmail.com](mailto:pamelalaholliday@gmail.com)

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



**Contact us!**

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