

OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Morehead City, NC



DECEMBER 2021

Dear Beloveds,

This is, historically, an inward time. The harvest is in; the days grow cold; the nights grow long. There is a season for everything, and this is the season for rest.

There is, for sure, still work to do. There's always work to do. There's pies to be baked, clothes to be stitched, laundry to be done, books to be read, children to be soothed. There's always the work of welcoming, peace-making, teaching, learning, justice-making, growing. There's always bills to pay, food to purchase, a roof to be kept overhead. There's always more to do.

What, then, of rest? In a society that glorifies the grind and the hustle, rest is a guilty pleasure snatched in between tasks. Or: in a world that has commodified the concept of "self-care," the idea of rest is used to sell us face masks and adult coloring books.

Yes, you should take care of yourself. Yes, if you don't take care of yourself, you won't be able to take care of anyone else. Yes, you should not set yourself on fire to keep others warm. You've surely heard that all before.

And consider this: if we are in the business of healing the world—which I believe that we are—that begins with healing ourselves. After all, are we not also part of the world? And rest is an integral part of healing ourselves, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. A broken foot will never heal if you keep walking on it; nor will a broken soul.

So: rest. Heal. Restore yourself, whatever that looks like for you. Take ten extra minutes in the shower. Play with your cat. Meditate. Book yourself into a hotel room for one night and order room service. Go for a long walk. Turn off your phone for the afternoon. Watch a funny movie. Write in your journal. Take a nap. Make an appointment with your therapist. Sing. Text a good friend.

Whatever you do to restore yourself, don't feel guilty about it. You need it. We need it. We all of us, collectively, need one another to heal.

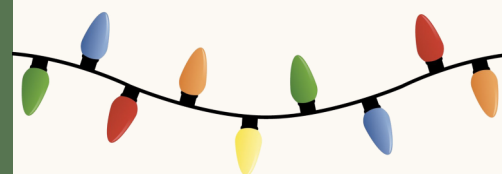
Peace,
Rev. Michelle Ma

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.



December Worship Services

10:30am Sunday mornings by Zoom
Log-in information is in each week's UCF Update

December 5: Waiting For Hope

As the nights grow long and we enter an inward season, let's take time to reflect on hope—and also on hopelessness. After all, sometimes, hope feels very hard to find.

December 12: Not Made to be a Crumb

In a world where there's so much regret about the past and so much anxiety about the future, how do we remain in the present? How do we seize joy, when we suddenly and unexpectedly come across it?

December 19: The Longest Night

At this turning of the seasons, we examine our relationships with darkness and light and celebrate the return of the sun. What lessons have we learned from the darkness?

December 24: Christmas Eve (at 5PM)

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve service, where we celebrate the birth of hope in the darkness, revisit a familiar story from our Christian roots, and sing familiar songs.

December 26: A Time For Contemplation

Please join our worship committee to explore the names and feelings and thoughts and those unsayable things that belong to what we call "mystery", in poetry.



President's Column

Hello My Friends! Happy December!

As you might imagine, especially of late, the Board spends most of our meeting time making decisions regarding our new campus. Nearly all require us to deftly juggle our common UU values, our financial solvency, and the congregation's hopes and dreams for the future. We also remain aware that these decisions should not be made quickly just for sake of expediency. We know they must be based on collecting and analyzing all the relevant information first. The very wise Stacey Abrams said: "To make a good decision, you actually need to think about it, the contours and the consequences". Finding the contours and consequences requires that Board members ask the obvious questions, as well as seeking and discovering the not so obvious ones. It may take a while to think about and research any given issue to discover everything needed to fully understand it. That is certainly true for me.

To provide the best service to you, the congregation, I can't skip making this effort and actually find comfort in it. I hesitate to compare myself with anything "old", but when it comes to making decisions for YOU, I'm kind of like an old coffee pot. I need to get all the information and let it percolate. As it brews and bubbles in my mind, I can better see all the elements I need to consider. I can then pour the contents out onto paper, preparing appropriate questions and comments to include in Board discussions. Yet, that is not where the responsibility ends.

Every Board decision must consider the congregation's actual priorities. As UUs, we subscribe to a set of common values. Nevertheless, if I were to ask every member and friend to prioritize those values in a list from most important to least important, I would venture to guess I would receive about 50 different iterations. For some, harmony with the earth would top the list and children's religious education would be at the bottom. For others, congregational polity would be first and harmony with the earth would bring up the rear. My point is that the Board must make priority-based decisions while, at the same time, knowing not every person agrees with the importance of that particular priority. Our congregation's priorities are not even close to forming a simple established list. As UUs, we know this is the case and accept our differences.

Still, disappointments may arise, and even hurt feelings, if a decision is considered "wrong". Is there a way to minimize disappointments or eliminate them altogether? Perhaps, that should not be the goal. After all, feelings are real and are best acknowledged. Highlighting our 5th principle is key: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Therefore, in some cases, the best way to acknowledge feelings about a particular issue is for the Board to listen to the voices of interested parties on a particular issue as another part of the decision-making process. At the same time, all of us must avoid confusing a decision that does not go our way with winning or losing. At its best, the right to express our conscience is about every interested party understanding the contours and consequences of each issue and eventually revealing the decision of the majority. It's not a perfect system, but it is the fairest.

UCF's unanimous votes for each of the current Board members at our Annual Business Meeting means that the congregation has put their trust in this Board to make decisions based on our common UU values, our financial solvency, and the congregation's hopes and dreams for the future. At the same time, the Board is trusted to continually listen to *your* voices to help us examine and understand the real-time and real human feelings about the decisions we make. The Board works for the congregation, while also being members of the congregation. Without a doubt, each of us is invested in the decisions we make for UCF and the people in its community. We are humbled by the trust you have placed in us.

All the Best!

Melva

Honor Someone You Love Or Admire

To Our Unitarian Coastal Fellowship Members and Friends,

We have ordered beautiful, safe, comfortable, and long-lasting chairs to use in our new sanctuary. The chairs are manufactured in Ohio. 75% of the power required to run the production line is from the burning of sawdust created in the process of manufacturing the wood for the chairs. The weaving of the fabric is powered by the wind.

We each have the opportunity to donate one or more chairs with an optional plaque with the name of the honored person(s) and the name of the donor. The plaque will be professionally placed on the back of the chair.

This is a very exciting program. We have already had interest from non-members from Asheville, Durham, Pennsylvania, and Morehead City.

Each chair is \$235. For more information, contact Miriam Green at mwgreen15@gmail.com or 252-726-3583. See your options to pay on page 2, along with a form (required) for your plaque and contact information.

Please respond by January 10, 2022 so we can order plaques in mid-January.

PLEASE NOTE: THE ORDER FORM TO USE AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN A PDF ATTACHMENT TO THIS NEWSLETTER EMAIL

Thank you for your participation!

Your UCF Furnishings/Finishings Committee

Karen Baggott, Miriam Green, JoEllen Essex, Susan Roberts, Sarah Sutherland, Tom Willis and Sandra Shelp



“Clearwater” fabric

“Amber” on
beech wood

new chairs for UCF!

ORDER FORM IS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER’S EMAIL

You're INVITED

to the **ANNUAL HOOPER COOKIE PARTY/OYSTER ROAST**



When? 1-5 PM, Sunday, December 19, 2021

Where? 273 East City Road, Smyrna, NC 28579
(252) 729-2521

We hope you will be able to join Mark and I for our Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange party. Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies and take home your plate with everyone else's cookies and I guarantee you will enjoy the most delicious bounty of cookies ever!

Oh, did I mention we will also have Grandma's homemade Eggnog, hot mulled wine, Core Sound Oysters and Clams cooked on the grill overlooking the water, and Volleyball in the front yard? This is a casual party and if you have visiting family or a friend you would like to bring along, that would be fine. Little ones have a wonderful time and make it feel more like Christmas! If you can't make it due to other Christmas commitments, please know we will do it again next year as we have for the last **48** years.



2019 Hooper Cookie Table

We hope all adults will be vaccinated.

BOARD BUSINESS

On October 30th, the Board and the Leadership Council met for a retreat to discuss the information gleaned from the Constructive Conversations with the Congregation. Proposals were heard and common findings were discussed. Each committee chair also discussed how these Conversations affected discussions in their respective committees.

The Board has voted to act as the Safe Congregation Taskforce, at least for now, as we create policy to address building safety policy. Part of that decision has resulted in creating a Mission and Vision Statement for the taskforce.

The Board continues to pay close attention to expenditures proposed for the new building and for furnishing it. We have agreed that, although we have a line of credit at the bank, we want to avoid using it if at all possible. We agree that avoiding bank debt, as leaders, we are providing a much-needed service to the congregation.

Consistent with our goal of preparing the leaders of our congregation, the Board has voted to fund leadership training for 2 members. Tom Wentworth and Linda Rudd have volunteered for this training.

All other business has focused on details and expenditures for our new campus.

New Year's Day Ceremony & Hike



Let's start 2022 right, gathering with family and friends for a stroll on the beach! UCF's Green Sanctuary and Adult RE Committees are pleased to announce a New Year's Day ceremony and hike at Fort Macon State Park. We will meet at 1 PM on Saturday, January 1, 2022 in the Beach Access area, which is reached by taking the **first right** immediately after entering the park. There is a large parking lot at the end of this road, and we will gather at the southeast corner of the lot, which is where the beach access trail begins. There are restrooms nearby, in the large building near our meeting place.

Before our hike, we will hold a special New Year's Day ceremony at one of the pavilions near the beach access. Our goals will be to banish those negative things from 2021 that may be holding us back and to plan for the positive things we wish to accomplish in the year ahead. Details of how you can participate in the ceremony and hike will be provided in semiweekly UCF Updates as we get a little closer to the date. For now, please mark your 2022 calendars!



CRYSTAL COAST PROUD'S NIGHT OUT AND SUPPORT OF CARTERET COATS FOR KIDS

Make plans to join Crystal Coast Proud on December 15 for an evening out at Promise Land Market to enjoy an event that brings together our diverse LGBTIA+ community AND allies while also giving community support to Carteret Coats for Kids. People plan to start enjoying the evening around 6 pm with trivia starting at 6:30 pm.

There will be a free beer tasting and light appetizers are provided. Promise Land Market is located at 909B Arendell Street in Morehead City.

If your situation allows, please bring gently used or new coat(s), in any size, to donate to Carteret Coats for Kids. This is a great program that provides winter coats to youth and adults.

Crystal Coast Proud is a non-profit organization of diverse LGBTQIA+ youth, adults and allies with the mission to spread the message of equality and inclusion through outreach, events and community support.



December Green Tip

Many of us are ready to update our wardrobes after almost 2 years of Covid. If that's you, consider buying sustainable clothing – there are more and more choices available these days! My first choice for such purchases is used clothing shops such as Goodwill; I can often find barely worn items in great condition for an excellent price. If you prefer new clothing, a wonderful website called The Good Trade

(<https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/fair-trade-clothing>)

lists 35 companies that support sustainable clothing practices. This website was founded in 2014 by AmyAnn Caldwell, a young woman who became appalled at the environmental and social justice issues in the mainstream clothing industry. The clothes are lovely, and you can feel good about your choice as well!



Do you know someone with a joy or sorrow who might benefit by receiving a card from UCF? We are doing that in order to emphasize and improve the connection UCF has with our congregation. Let Miriam Green know at mwgreen15@gmail.com or 252-726-3583. You may include specifics, but specifics are not required. A “thinking of you” card sometimes can be enough to let someone know they are cared for.

Doug and Hilary Schultz, friends of UCF, ask that you keep their son, Chris, in your thoughts and prayers. He had major back surgery in November in Walter Reed. Afterwards he developed pneumonia. And because of their COVID restrictions, they could not be with him.



Sending You Light

We will be making and using luminaria—paper bags of sand, with a candle inside—for a worship service sometime in December. On one side of the bag, you may share a lament, grief, or loss. On the other side of the bag, you may share a hope or a dream. Send your laments and hopes to Rev. Michelle at revmichellema@gmail.com. Further updates on this project will be shared in the Weekly Updates.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is Having a Drive-Thru!

We know that everyone misses each other, so please swing by 2900 Bridges Street between 2pm – 4pm on Sunday, Dec. 5 to see some friendly faces and pick up a bag of treats!



YOUR Pastoral Care Team

Rev Michelle Ma	revmichellema@gmail.com	252-499-0836
Joan Burton	ldybg223@aol.com	201-669-1519
Miriam Green	mwgreen15@gmail.com	919-906-9996
Helene Kelly	helenekelly1@gmail.com	252-269-0775
Liz Morningstar	lizmorningstar@gmail.com	720-215-5681
Holly Rogers	hollyer54@yahoo.com	509-607-2055
Terri Thomas	terrihomas00@gmail.com	252-314-4110

December Pastoral Care Tip:

Brisk walking improves brain health and thinking in aging people with memory impairments, according to a new, yearlong study of mild cognitive impairment and exercise. In the study, middle-aged and older people with early signs of memory loss raised their cognitive scores after they started walking frequently. Regular exercise also amplified the healthy flow of blood to their brains. The changes in their brains and minds were subtle but consequential, the study concludes, and could have implications not just for those with serious memory problems, but for any of us whose memories are starting to fade with age. AARP recommends starting with 30 minutes a day, three times a week, and working up to five times a week, for the best benefits. Parking farther from the store when you go shopping and taking the stairs instead of elevators and escalators also help.



FILM SHOWING AND DISCUSSION ON RACIAL BIAS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The Zoom showing of the documentary “Racially Charged: America’s Misdemeanor Problem” on November 9th was a big success. Forty-eight people attended, representing 13 Unitarian Universalist churches in NC, along with many others. Our guest experts, Lisa “LA” Jones, and Steve Chalmers were excellent, answering questions from the attendees and leading a very enlightening and interesting discussion. The Social Action Committee hopes to work with UU Justice NC on the issue of racial justice in the criminal justice system in the future. Here is a link to the movie if you would like to watch it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bm2PxEOHMr4&t=2s>. If you would like to help combat racial bias in our criminal justice system, an organization that was mentioned in the discussion after the movie was The Bail Project: <https://bailproject.org/>. Check it out.



RACIAL JUSTICE WORK

At the Social Action Committee meeting in August, it was decided to continue our Racial Justice work by dividing into two groups:

A A R G

The Anti-Racism Reading group (ARRG) will continue to provide education on these issues through reading and discussion of books on racism and racial justice. They will endeavor to include more members of the congregation in this work by encouraging people to participate as they can or when they have an interest in a particular book. This group will continue under the Adult Religious Education Committee.

For ARRG news, see the Adult Religious Education article on page 11

Racial Justice Group

The Racial Justice Group will be formed as a team of the Social Action Committee and will pursue action toward dismantling racism both locally and nationally.

Included in these actions will be working toward adopting the Eighth Principle in our congregation.

Eighth Unitarian Universalist Principle:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Racial Justice Group News
Is on the following page

RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS:

An organizational team for the Racial Justice Group met on Sunday, November 14th. Here is a summary of their work:

- * Penny Hooper and Susan Roberts will co-chair the team
- * Liz Morningstar will repeat her class on “Recognizing and Interrupting Racism” after we are in our new facilities – possibly February or March

We will:

- *Continue to send out Action Items from UU Justice NC, especially those related to voting rights. We will also continue our collaboration with them on racial justice issue**
- *Work toward adoption of the Eighth UU Principle (see below) beginning with a service on Racial Justice on MLK Sunday (January 16th) that includes information about the principle.**
- *Continue to explore actions we can take on racial issues in the Criminal Justice system after our successful showing of the film “Racially Charged: America’s Misdemeanor Problem”**
- *Follow and support the work of the Citizens for Diversity in Education group which is working to have more people of color in administrative and faculty positions in the Carteret County Schools. Sally Davis is a member of this group.**
- *Continue to meet every other month (alternating with the ARRG) starting in February. Anyone who is interested in working on racial justice is welcome to join this group. Email Amy Jones (amjone0912@gmail.com) or Barb Thomas (bsthomas2@gmail.com).**

HOLIDAY GIVING FOR 2021

The October 5th Sunday collection for holiday giving received \$2,727!! Thanks to everyone in the congregation for your generosity.

This money will allow us to continue our tradition of giving holiday gift bags to clients of Beach House and Hope Mission’s Homeless Shelter and Recovery Homes, containing Walmart gift cards, a greeting card from UCF and handmade hats, scarves and other items.



Penny Hooper and Sarah Sutherland will adopt families from Project Christmas Cheer’s “Angel Tree” and will take the children in the congregation shopping for gifts for these families. We will also provide gift bags and snacks and drinks for a holiday party to the clients of our new neighbors – formerly known as Station “Club, it is now called “Empower” and is being run by the Easter Seals organization.

We hope by next year to be able to revive our tradition of singing Christmas Carols with their clients.

Adult Religious Education

Adult Religious Education had a busy month! In addition to weekly meditation and yoga sessions, we co-sponsored with Social Action, the film and discussion, "Racially Charged: America's Misdemeanor Problem." An excellent discussion was led by LA Jones, a retired federal warden and Charles Chalmers, retired Durham NC Chief of Police. Approximately 30 participants joined us from the UU Justice Ministry of NC. You may wish to contact Barb Thomas or Amy Jones for a transcript of the discussion questions and answers.

UCF members Meganne Smith and Holly Rogers recently led programs, respectively, with participants writing their personal poetry on "Where I Am Come From," and a documentary discussion of "The Game Changers," on the benefits of a vegan diet. We also co-sponsored a nature hike with Green Sanctuary, led by member Tom Wentworth to the Cedar Point Tidelands Trail in Croatan National Forest. Tom will lead another hike at Fort Macon on New Year's Day, to start the year actively in nature.

The Anti-Racist Reading Group sponsored a congregational book discussion of Breathe: A Letter to My Sons, by Imani Perry, on November 17. This was the UUA Common Read for 2020-2021. Many thoughtful ideas and opinions were expressed during the discussion led by members Susan Roberts, Linda Rudd, Penny Hooper, and Sally Davis.

The Anti-Racist Reading Group will meet next on January 13, at 7 p.m. The read will be You Are Your Best Thing, an anthology by 20 well-known racial justice writers. We are asking each person attending to be prepared to lead a brief discussion of the article that meant the most personally. Time won't permit discussing all 20 articles, but this will ensure that we discuss the ones that especially spoke to us.

The book selection for March will be, Me and White Supremacy, by Layla F. Saad. Rev. Ma will introduce this read at the MLK service, as a lead-up to the congregational study of the proposed UUA 8th Principle next year. This book is hands-on, with prompts for the reader to keep a 28-day journal based on the reading.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, December 9, at 3 p.m. Please send us ideas for programs you would like to see offered in 2022. We look forward being face-to-face in our new building! Perhaps even with refreshments!

Children's Religious Education

Hi everyone!

I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying the spirit of the holidays that you are celebrating.

Our Story of All Ages title will be changed to **Time for All Ages** as we will be doing other things not only reading stories. We will be talking about different topics, poems, and as you have seen with Fry Bread last week, we will be adding other multi-generational participation plays or readings.

Christmas Angel Tree Project



We have the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Christmas Angel Tree Project, and our angels will be buying Christmas gifts for children in need through the generous donations of our fellowship.

We will be shopping at Walmart this year (meet inside Walmart at the pharmacy entrance) in Morehead City on Saturday, December 4th at 10:00 a.m. After shopping we will be going to the Sunday School Building at 2900 for pizza lunch, cookies, and drinks and the wrapping of presents

We need to recognize that COVID 19 and the variants are still amongst us so we will be following CDC guidelines, which the UUA, our Fellowship, and the State of North Carolina also follow for all participating in this day. So, we ask that masks be worn, social distance as much as we can, and wash your hands often. Of course, when we are having pizza for lunch, we will be cautious about where we are all sitting.



Please email Sarah Sutherland at ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com if you and/or your child/children would like to participate in shopping and gift wrapping. If you only have time to shop or gift wrap, please let me know ahead of time. If you only want to gift wrap, come by the church Sunday School building located behind the church at 2900 Bridges Street at around noontime and join us for pizza and gift wrapping.

I will need to know if you are dropping off your child/children at Walmart and then picking them up at 2 p.m. so I can make sure we have the right number of seats for transporting your children from Walmart to the church. As we have done in the past, we will ask parents to help transport children back to the church if we don't have enough seats in our cars.

I so look forward to seeing families from our church again and helping out those less fortunate. If your family is in need during this holiday season, please call me directly at 603-254-5559 or by email. This conversation will be held in confidentiality.

Let us be thankful for our friendships, family, and our loving church community.

In Spirit and Love,

Sarah



OUR UU HISTORY

This month is our sixth of a seven-part series of our UU History and how we came to be. Last month you heard about Circles of Light – The Flaming Chalice – 1941 that showed the chalices the children made in the fall of 2019 so they would have a chalice at their homes that represents the symbol of freedom, hope and light, of learning and caring and love. It's our symbol, the symbol of Unitarian Universalism.

I spoke about the Consolidation a couple months ago and for those who were not at the service you can read it here on how the Unitarians and Universalists came to be one religion.

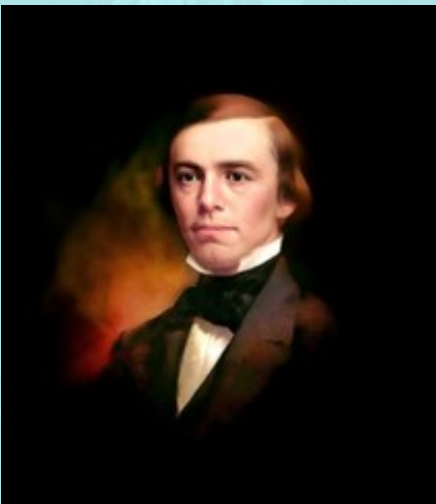
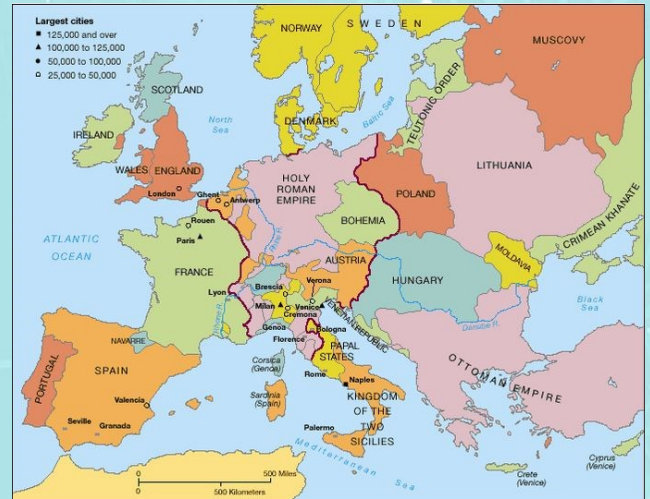
The Consolidation 1961

As the Protestant Reformation moved across Europe in the 1500s, both Unitarian and Universalist ideas resurfaced more strongly, and the ideas went with the European immigrants to North America.

Unitarian Universalist. That's the name we say when someone asks us, "What religion are you?" And then they usually say, "A Uni-what?"

"Unitarian Universalist," we say again, but often, the name by itself doesn't seem to explain very much.

Perhaps that's because "Unitarian Universalist" is not really "a name by itself." It's two names together, because we come from two religions: the Unitarians and the Universalists.



Rev. Thomas Starr King

Both religions have roots far back in the Protestant Reformation, nearly four hundred years ago. Both religions were established in the United States around the time of the American Revolution, over two hundred years ago. Both regions had much in common. They both believed in the importance of social justice, religious education, and tolerance of different beliefs. In the 1880s, the Reverend Thomas Starr King (who was raised as a Universalist and became a Unitarian minister, and so perhaps might be described as a Universalist Unitarian) said that the only reason that Unitarians and Universalists hadn't already joined together was that they were too closely related to be married.

And yet, they did "marry." Not that it was easy. The courtship took years. The courtship took years, and not everyone was interested. Some people said, "Why not?" but other people said, "Why? What will we have to change? What will be different? What will we lose? What will we gain?"

But they did it! The delegates agreed on the plan to consolidate and become the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Then it was up to the churches to decide whether or not to agree. Now, usually, when the associations held a plebiscite (pleb-i-cite)– votes from all the people in each church, instead of one vote from that church's delegate – only about 20 percent or so of the churches would even bother to reply. But this time, in order for the consolidation to succeed, 75 percent of the churches had to vote, and 75 percent of those churches had to say, "Yes, we want to join."

"It'll never happen," said some people. "You'll never get that many people to vote, let alone vote yes."

But the delegates had worked too hard and too long on the Plan to Consolidate to let the vote die. So, they *called* each church, and they asked members to vote. "Vote 'yes' or vote 'no,' whichever you choose, but vote!"

And they did. But not 20 percent. Not 50 percent. Not 75. More. Over 90 percent of the churches and nearly 90 percent of them voted "YES." In May of 1961, the American Unitarian Association and the Universalists Church of America consolidated with each other, and the Unitarian Universalist Association was officially formed.

Hundreds of ministers joined the delegates for a celebratory worship service, and all joined in singing

**As tranquil streams that meet and merge
And flow as one to seek the sea,
Our kindred fellowships unite
To build a church that shall be free.
(Hymn 145 in the gray hymnal)**

Donald Harrigan delivered the sermon "Unitarian Universalism: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," and at the end of the service, the delegates promised, "We declare our allegiance to the new Unitarian Universalist Association, and pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our faith to its highest purposes and sure upbuilding."

And so here we are, sixty years later, with two names and one religion: Unitarian Universalist.

The End.

Next month is our last story of our UU History called, "The Long, Slow Swell of the Sea," The Water Ritual 1980.

In Spirit and Love,

Sarah

December News from your New Building Team

We've come a long way since the NBT was formed and charged to make the property at 2900 Bridges St our new home. March of 2019. It seems like yesterday and long ago at the same time. We started with the idea of repairing and remodeling the Annex and Sanctuary buildings. Now, almost three years later, we're nearly finished remodeling the Annex and building a new Sanctuary from the ground up.

We've had false starts and setbacks, but everything seemed to work out in the best possible way for UCF in the long term. As you can see at the site, we're fully enclosed with doors and windows. Siding is going on the outside of the Sanctuary. Matching siding is going on the three gable ends of the Annex. There is a new double door going into the Annex directly opposite the double door on the patio leading to the Fellowship Hall.

Through December the contractors will be finishing the insulation and sheet rock for the walls. They will be installing our beautiful wood plank ceiling (running from twelve to twenty seven feet in height) and wood beams. Equipment will be installed and connected to the many, many wires that have been strung throughout the skeleton of the Sanctuary. A channel for the folding door is framed and ready for the acoustical door to be hung that will separate the Sanctuary from the Fellowship Hall.

Then there will be the kitchen cabinets, appliances and the restroom fixtures, and don't forget the polished cement floor! We could go on and on... chairs, rugs, wall hangings, ...December is going to be an exciting and busy month.

Your NBT wishes you all a wonderful holiday season!

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Phillips



'O Come All Ye Faithful'

YOGA

Wednesdays—9AM

MEDITATION

Mondays—6:15PM

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

UCF Book Group

The UCF book group has chosen The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris for our December discussion. Harris' debut novel, published this year, was long-listed for the Booker Prize and received enthusiastic reviews. The story centers around the unlikely bond formed between a white farmer and two freedmen during Reconstruction in Georgia. We will be meeting on Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. at the Democratic Party Headquarters at 700 Arendell St.

Our January selection is The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict. 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 or 843-217-1885).

Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Discussion Group will now be meeting on the second Monday of each month. Our December meeting will be on Monday, December 13 at 12:30. We will be getting together on Zoom, so bring your lunch and fire up your computer and join us. Our discussion topic will certainly get us in the holiday spirit. We will share family stories and traditions from the holidays.

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 or 843-217-1885.



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			1 Yoga 9AM Communications Team 1PM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	2 Leadership Council 10AM New Building Team 2PM	3	4 Christmas Angel Tree Project 10AM
5 Worship Service 10:30AM Pastoral Care Drive-Thru 2PM	6 Meditation 6:15PM	7 Worship Committee 12PM	8 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	9 New Building Team 2PM ARE Committee 3PM	10	11 Book Club 9AM 
12 Worship Service 10:30AM	13 Women's Discussion Group 12:30PM Meditation 6:15PM	14	15 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM Crystal Coast Proud Night Out 6:30PM	16 New Building Team 2PM	17	18
19 Worship Service 10:30AM Hooper Cookie Party 1PM	20 Meditation 6:15PM	21 	22 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	23 New Building Team 2PM	24 Christmas Eve Service 5PM 	25 
26 Worship Service 10:30AM 	27 Meditation 6:15PM	28	29 Yoga 9AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	30 New Building Team 2PM	31 	January 1 Nature Hike at Fort Macon 1PM 

Board of Trustees:

President: Melva Kearney melva.kearney@gmail.com

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