

OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Morehead City, NC



APRIL 2022

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.

Beloveds,

It has surely been a long season of waiting.

Two long years we have waited! For the pandemic to be over...for our dreams of a new building to come to fruition...it has been two years of anticipation, weariness, impatience, excitement, nervousness, and all of the other big and small emotions that come with waiting.

And now, at last, the waiting may be over. Spring has indeed arrived. As I write this, the parking lot has been completed, the final coat of paint has gone on, and the ceiling beams have been stained. The piano move has been scheduled. We have begun making tentative plans for moving and unpacking.

And now, a delay of another sort: the delay of the search for a new minister.

There are times when delays are a blessing. The building delays, though frustrating, turned out to be a blessing in that it allowed us to wait out another wave of the pandemic without the temptation of being able to gather indoors.

It gave us time to develop a COVID policy that took into account the newest scientific evidence and recommendations. The delay of ministerial search gives us time to take stock of our financial situation and recover from the emotional and spiritual toll that the pandemic took on all of us. It gives us time to figure out who we are, what we want, where we're going—and who we want to help us get there.

And, most of all: it gives us some time to simply enjoy *being together*. It's been a long two years! We've missed seeing one another's smiles, tasting one another's cakes, hearing one another's voices. We've missed just *being in the same room together*, even just sitting in silence, knowing that someone else is there, part of the same silence.

I know that there's so many of you I haven't gotten a chance to know yet.
I look forward to it.

Blessings,
Rev. Michelle Ma



OUR COASTLINE

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April Worship Services

Sundays at 10:30AM on Zoom

Zoom link is provided in each Friday edition of *The Wave*

April 3: *The Book of Mistakes*

Everyone makes mistakes. We all know it, and as long as it's other people making mistakes, we often forgive them quite readily. But we often see our own mistakes as unforgivable. But who would we be, without our mistakes?

April 10: *Finding Utopia*

As we approach the long-awaited day when we gather in our new sanctuary, members of the UCF congregation are about to experience a dream-come-true. However, dreams of a carefully planned and glorious future are certainly nothing new. Where, oh where are Shangri-la, Brigadoon, and the Fountain of Youth? In this service we will examine these idealistic Utopias and discover how we can use them to become re-enchanted with reality.

BIO: Artist Addie Hirschten is a contemporary impressionist painter, art teacher, host of the "The Alchemy of Art" podcast and author of several books. You can find out more about her creative work at: www.studioalchemy.art. She has been a UU since 1987 and has shared a variety of sermons as a Worship Associate at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis. Addie is also the daughter of UCF members Linda Rudd and Tom Wentworth.

April 17: *A Communion of Flowers*

Flower Communion is a uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual celebrating beauty, diversity, and community. We encourage you to bring your own flowers, and leave bearing different flowers! (And don't worry if you forget to bring some flowers—there are always enough.)

NOTE: This will be an IN PERSON service, with a Zoom option; we will meet at the Fort Macon visitors center beach overlook. At the very end of the road into Fort Macon is the visitors center. The overlook is across from the visitor center on the beach side of the parking lot. There is plenty of parking available.

April 24: *On Radical Welcome*

Our sign says "A Welcoming Community." We like to say "We welcome everyone." But *do* we really welcome everyone? Who are the people who might not feel welcome in our community, and why? And: do we really *want* to welcome everyone?

April News from your New Building Team

February 4, 2019



March was a busy month! Think about a small bowl of spaghetti; now find and tie the loose end of one to another and another. WoW! Don't get lost in the rich sauce, the aesthetics of our new space is wonderful. The temporary occupancy permit has been issued by Morehead City and moving our new furniture into the sanctuary has begun. The FFC will also be moving the familiar furniture and wall hangings from 1300 Evans to their new home. The piano will be moved in and tuned to help our neglected voices sing, sing, sing.

The electric vehicle charging station is the most visible item to show that we care about earth's climate and environment. A closer look will show the parking lot has about 50 percent porous surface due to the Ecoraster. The building was constructed to be environmentally friendly, from the energy efficient HVAC, and the thick insulation to the energy saving LED lighting and the ceiling fans to keep the air mixing comfortably. The building was built to withstand hurricanes up to 150 mph wind for the roof and our windows will protect from high speed debris that may be blowing around during a storm.

The last visible construction will be completed under the watchful eye of Tom Wentworth, et al, of the landscaping committee. Yard Barber is the selected contractor for our project. Morehead City has specific guidelines for landscaping that include set back from curbs and sidewalks, number of plants, type of plants, mix of shrubs, small trees and large trees. And more. Under the leadership of a great committee, we have

weeded out those invasive plants that Morehead City allows, (shame on them?) and our campus will have only native plants to fill the required guidelines. The jewel in the crown (or tree in the circle) will be the Live Oak, donated by Pam Holliday.

Some of you have noticed the brick sign along the sidewalk on Bridges Street. Well, we kept this relic since if it is removed, we cannot put a new sign along Bridges St. Upon looking at the big picture, we have now decided we really don't want that old red brick monstrosity in our front yard. Therefore, it will be covered in stucco for better curb appeal. Maybe it is already stucco? We are moving into a wonderful space with both in-person Sunday services and continuing Zoom services for those who choose to do so. We have created a place to meet, a place for learning, fellowship and fun.

Now is the time to LEARN how to operate the new systems and equipment in the church. Get involved in music, operating music and video equipment; operate kitchen equipment from coffee maker to dishwasher. (Yes, there really is only one correct way to load a machine.) We can always use new ideas in the Finance Committee and Worship Committee. In addition, the newest challenge will be operating the two buildings on our campus, who will help make sure the lights are turned off, that the restrooms are clean, that the doors are locked?

April – could this be the last month for a newsletter?
Only the Shadow knows...

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Phillips



March 29, 2022

JOIN US FOR THE FINAL BIG MOVE!!!!

We are ready to move items from the annex into our new sanctuary building and set up our beautiful sanctuary chairs. Please click on the Sign Up Genius links to the right to set up our sanctuary chairs at 1 PM on Tuesday, April 5 and to move items into the remaining rooms at 1 PM on Thursday, April 7. Please sign up only if you are fully vaccinated and boosted. You'll receive more details before the actual move. We will be safe, socially distanced and masked.

Contact Miriam Green,
mwgreen15@gmail.com, 252-726-3583,
919-906-9996 for any questions
or discussion.

SET UP CHAIRS

April 5—1PM

Click [HERE](#)
to Sign Up

MOVE ITEMS

April 7—1PM

Click [HERE](#)
to Sign Up

The much anticipated kitchen registry is now available!!!!

We have the opportunity to make our new kitchen beautiful and efficient. Click [HERE](#) to search and look for items you'd like to purchase at Bed Bath and Beyond, but don't purchase anything yet. In order to get a 20% discount, contact Jo Ellen Essex, our designated buyer at joInsx@yahoo.com or 252-777- 4012 and let her know what you want to contribute. She will make the purchase and let you know what amount you need to reimburse her for. It's simple!

Have fun, shoppers!



Vice President's Column

I'm filling in for Board President Melva Kearney again this month with another newsletter article from the Vice President. Melva is continuing her recovery and rehabilitation after shoulder surgery.

I drive down Bridges Street every time I go to Morehead City from Beaufort now so I can drive by 2900 Bridges Street. I imagine what it will be like to worship, to attend Board and committee meetings and religious education classes in the new building. In my mind, I can see working in the big new kitchen and having a pot luck dinner someday. But if there's anything I've learned in the past two years of this pandemic, it is that I have to be patient, to be careful, and to be cautious, because I am concerned about others and everything takes longer in these pandemic days.

As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm that all people are valuable, and that we are a part of an interdependent web of existence. Your UCF Board, Leadership Council, and New Building Team have developed a COVID policy that will hopefully serve to respect UU values while we protect those who attend activities at 2900 Bridges Street. The recommendations of health officials and the policies of other congregations were reviewed. The recognition that many in our congregation are at high risk for infection as well as considerations that our new building will require continued work by contractors even after we start using the building also guided the policy. The Board will review the policy and update it as needed at least every 2 months.

The policy may be read on the congregation's web page, www.ucfnc.org. Please look for it using the Search feature. It is likely to be more restrictive than local businesses but perhaps less restrictive than a healthcare facility.

We will ask that those who attend meetings and worship be vaccinated if there is a vaccine for their age group (but showing a card won't be required) and wear a mask if over 2 years of age. There will be masks if someone forgets to bring one. If the risk level (according to [CovidActNow.org](https://www.covidactnow.org)) increases to HIGH (orange), we will have virtual worship and recommend virtual meetings. A virtual option for worship and meetings will be offered at all risk levels for those who want to attend virtually. The policy isn't perfect, but I think it is one with which we can work while upholding our values of the inherent worth of all by making our buildings as safe as possible.

Taking longer to do most anything has been a frustrating part of pandemic life. It has certainly taken longer to build the church because of supply chain issues and shortages of building materials. The process of the transition in the interim ministry to be ready for a ministerial search has also been slower. I was relieved to find out that other congregations who are in interims between settled ministers are delaying their searches for new ministers and are extending the typical 2-year process. In conversations with the Board, the Leadership Council, the Transition Team, and with congregants at a Coffee with the Board on March 6, I heard that many of you agreed that this congregation should extend our interim. I look forward to more discussions of how that will work for us, but for now, it's good to know that there is more time to get settled in 2900 Bridges, to learn what our expenses will be, to look at our budget, and to define our needs and desires for the next steps in professional ministry at UCF.

Nursery Room Painting Party!

Saturday, April 2—9 AM

I am hoping that we will have more students join us as it is on a weekend and not on a school day. We will be doing all of the background painting and doing a big sail boat on a separate wall. Vinyl stickers of ocean fish and mammals, seaweed and other fishy things will be stuck to the wall so our younger little ones can participate as well. It should be a fun morning. I hope to see you there.

If your children would like a snack or drink, please bring it along as we have no refrigeration yet. If you have any question, please contact Sarah Sutherland at ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com or 603-254-5559



Nature Walk

Ready to get outdoors and enjoy the spring wildflowers? Tom Wentworth will lead this year's first nature walk on Saturday April 23, from 2-4 pm on a yet-to-be-determined trail, likely in the Croatan National Forest. Please check *The Wave* weekly in April for details. Sponsored by UCF Adult RE and Green Sanctuary. Welcome Spring!!



Agenda Call for the Annual Meeting

According to the bylaws, the Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held “during the weekend in June that begins with the second Friday in June, at a time and place fixed by the Board of Trustees.” It is typically held after the worship service on Sunday, which would be on June 12. Maybe we can have it in person this year with a virtual component! Absentee ballots and proxies will also be available. Please submit any agenda items to Susan Fetzer, Vice President, at sgfetzer@gmail.com or call her at 252-259-5187.

Joys & Concerns

Take a moment to hold in our hearts those who are suffering:

"We hold in our hearts those who are suffering fear and injury and loss- in the war in Ukraine and in neighboring countries where hundreds of thousands have fled... We hold in our hearts our friends and neighbors here- our marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen deploying to Eastern Europe and for their families who remain behind to worry...."

Take a moment to celebrate joy!

1) Melva Kearney rested comfortably after her surgery at Duke Raleigh Hospital and was later discharged. She is thinking of you and sends her love and best wishes.

2) Marty Newcomb has accepted a full-time job at the NC port in Morehead City. She is thrilled and we are thrilled for her!

Board Business

- ◇ The New Building Team reported on the progress toward completion of 2900 Bridges.
- ◇ The board agreed to extend the interim ministry after discussions with the Transition Team, Leadership Council, and a Coffee with the Board.
- ◇ A COVID policy was developed for when the congregation meets again in person and will be reviewed every 2 months.
- ◇ The next Board Meeting will be on April 14 at 7PM.



April Green Tip

If you're a gardener, you've been dreaming of and planning your 2022 garden for the past few weeks. Even if you don't have a large garden patch, you can help the migratory birds, wildlife, and insects around us survive and reproduce as they try to deal with climate changes. Check out these websites for inspiration:

<http://www.ecosystemgardening.com/top-10-herbaceous-plants-to-attract-wildlife-to-your-ecosystem-garden.html> or <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/wildlife-friendly-plants/>.

The suggested native plants can be a beautiful addition to your living space, and you can feel good about helping the animals. Even a window box of the right plants can be beneficial! With a little more space, you can include vegetables in an organic,

sustainable "victory garden" for your family – a win/win for you and the critters with whom we share this precious planet. Your wildlife-friendly garden could be a small victory over climate change.

For information on sustainable gardening practices, check out <https://tataandhoward.com/10-tips-for-a-low-maintenance-eco-friendly-backyard/>.



Green Sanctuary Meeting

Join us Sunday, April 24 for our first Green Sanctuary meeting of 2022! We hope to meet **in person** in the large meeting room in the Annex (#7) immediately following the church service in our new sanctuary, 2900 Bridges Street.

Come help us plan Green Sanctuary programs for the coming year!!

Stay tuned to the weekly *Wave* for details including a possible Zoom link.



READING NOOK

UCF Book Club

The UCF Book Club has chosen The Interpreter by Suki Kim for our April discussion.

Suzy Park, a Korean American interpreter for the NYC court system, makes an ominous discovery about her family history after her parents are found murdered.

This book gives an amazing picture of the immigrant experience and the Korean underground in NYC.

Please join us- we would love to have you. Date to be announced.

For info contact Joan Burton at 201-669-1519 or LDYBG223@AOL.COM.



ARRG News for April

On March 17, we discussed Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor, by Layla F. Saad. Liz Morningstar led a very deep and thought provoking discussion

At our next meeting, Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m., we will discuss The Water Dancer, by Ta-Nehisi Coates. It is the story of a man born into slavery, who escapes via the underground railroad and resolves to rescue the family he left behind.

The book jacket reads, “Written by one of today’s most exciting writers and thinkers, The Water Dancer is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.”

In July we will discuss Somebody’s Daughter: A Memoir, by Ashley Ford. Ashley’s father is incarcerated while she is growing up. As an adult, she attempts to forgive others and accept herself, while trying understand who she is, what she was born into, and the bonds of familial love. A very moving memoir.

I think everyone will find both books very worthwhile reads.

- Sally Davis

Spring Holidays Food Drive

The Food Waste & Recovery Program of the Carteret Food & Health Council is collecting canned or packaged items for local pantries that help make Spring holiday meals.

Please look for donation boxes at IGA, Piggly Wiggly, Dollar General and various coffee shops. We appreciate your donations!

For more information, to volunteer, or to donate, please email dfwaker99@gmail.com or send us a Facebook message at www.facebook.com/CarteretFoodandHealthCouncil



COLLECTING DONATIONS
APRIL 1-14

HEADS
UP!

APRIL 4—APRIL 8

She will be attending **Finding Our Way Home**, an annual retreat for UU religious professionals of color. She will be catching up with colleagues she hasn't seen in several years in Long Beach, CA. It may be difficult to reach her during this time, as she'll be in a different time zone and quite busy during the day.



Rev. Michelle
is traveling!

Rev. Michelle is attending TWO conferences in April!

APRIL 25—APRIL 29

She will be attending the **Transitional Ministry Seminar**, which is the annual conference for UU transitional ministers. She will be attending to UCF business, but will be working remotely from Durham, where she will be gathering with other transitional ministers working in the region.

Women's Discussion Group

In April, the Women's Discussion Group will be meeting on the second Monday, April 11, at 12:30 on Zoom. Are you ready for this?!

Our topic will be tattoos! What do you think of tattoos? Does anyone in your family have one? Do you have one? If you ever got one, what would it be? When you were a teenager or young adult (assuming you did not get a tattoo then), what did you do instead?

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.

YOGA
Wednesdays at 8AM

MEDITATION
Mondays at 6:15PM

YOUR Pastoral Care Team:

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Holly Rogers	hollyer54@yahoo.com	509-607-2055
Terri Thomas	terriethomas00@gmail.com	252-314-4110

Children's Religious Education

Hi everyone,

Happy April to you all. I sure hope some of you have been out biking, playing ball, racking up leaves that have blown around with all these winds, planting gardens, and walking and cleaning up our beaches. Our family has and we have found some interesting very old rare fossilized shells! Such fun.

I have scheduled the painting of the Nursery walls for Saturday, April 2nd at 9 a.m. I would love to see some families come by and members of the church to help paint and put up "Under the Sea" vinyl stickers on the walls. We will also be painting sailboats on another wall! During the month of April, I will be setting up my office that I will share with our music director, Tom Cullison and getting other rooms ready for the opening of our new church. The Children's Spiritual Exploration room is almost done where we will have chapel when we don't start off in the sanctuary with Rev. Michelle and our Time for All Ages.

When you come on Saturday, please wear a mask and if you don't have one there are some in the annex (this is the building on Church Street behind the church. You will enter the Annex through the door facing Church Street. If you would like to bring snacks, please do so, just a reminder that we do not have refrigeration yet in the church.

Our story this month continues with our Kid's Principles and the book Everybody Is Important by Jennifer Dant. Our first principles was "Every sing person is important," our second principles was that "We treat one another with respect," and our third principle we talk about this month.

Kid's Principle #3

We spend our whole lives learning how to be the best people we can be.

Story #1

"WHAT does that mean?" Lilly asks Maya about the necklace Maya's wearing, which has a little gold cup with a flame coming out of it. Maya explains that it's called a "flaming chalice" and is the symbol of her religion. "I'm a Unitarian Universalist," she tells Lilly. Lilly shows Maya her earrings, which are crosses hanging from little silver hoops. "My family believes that you have to get saved by Jesus to go to heaven." "We believe different things," Maya answers, "my family believes there are lots of ways to get to heaven." Lilly's eyes grow big. "But that's wrong!" she says.

Q 1: Do you think people can believe different things without fighting?

Q 2: What could Maya say back to Lilly?

Story #2

AUSTIN and his friend Carl are in Austin's backyard, waiting to go to the park. "It's not fair!" Austin yells at his mom, who is taking his baby sister out of her swing. "You said you would take us to the park! His mom sighs. "I know we're late, Austin, but I still have to dress your sister and make you guys' sandwiches before we can go." Austin groans. "But you promised we could go play basketball today and the other kids will be gone by the time we get there!" "I know and I'm sorry," Austin's mom says. Carl taps Austin on the shoulder while her back is turned. "Your mom has a lot to do. Maybe we could help her."

Q 1: Do you think Carl is helping Austin to be a better person?

Q 2: What could Carl and Austin do to help Austin's mom get ready to go to the park?



SOCIAL

Welcoming Congregation News:

A committee consisting of Amy Jones, Marty Newcomb, Sally Davis, Rev. Ma and Barb Thomas is working on renewing our Welcoming Congregation status with the UUA. This will be a process that is repeated annually and will help ensure that we are always looking for ways to make our congregation and the work we do more welcoming to people of “*varying cultures, economic and ethnic backgrounds; ...people of varying sexual orientations, gender identities and family compositions; ... people of all races, ages, and beliefs.*”

There is a new blog on our website to inform our congregation about this ongoing work.

Check it out [HERE!](#)



ACTION


8th Principle Event for North Carolina UUs with Paula Cole Jones

Sunday, April 3rd at 8:00pm.

This spring, UU Justice NC is teaming up with [DRUUMM](#) to offer a virtual event for North Carolina UUs interested in learning more about the [8th Principle](#).

We'll have the incredible opportunity to hear directly from the co-author of the 8th Principle, Paula Cole Jones.

We'll also learn more about the process of adopting the 8th Principle from two lay-leader panelists who have led this work in their own congregations. [Register Here!](#)



**8TH
PRINCIPLE
EVENT**
for North Carolina
UU Congregations

Sunday, April 3rd at 8:00pm
With Special Guest, Paula Cole Jones
Co-Sponsored by UU Justice NC & DRUUMM

HELLO APRIL!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Nursery Mural Painting 9AM 
3 Worship Service 10:30AM 8th Principle Project 8PM	4 Meditation 6:15PM	5 Worship Committee 12PM	6 Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	7 Leadership Council 9:30AM	8	9
10 Worship Service 10:30AM	11 Women's Discussion Group 12:30PM Meditation 6:15PM	12 Staff Meeting 4:30PM	13 Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	14 Board of Trustees 7PM	15 	16
17 Worship Service 10:30AM 	18 Meditation 6:15PM 	19 Finance Committee 9AM	20 Yoga 8AM Committee On Ministry 1PM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	21	22 	23 Nature Walk 2PM
24 Worship Service 10:30AM Green Sanctuary 11:30AM	25 Meditation 6:15PM	26	27 Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:30PM	28	29 	30

Board of Trustees:

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Contact us!

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