



OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Morehead City, NC



Dear beloveds,

At last the day is here. **May 8th** is when we will find ourselves in the new sanctuary. Indeed, you'll have seen some (perhaps fumbling) worship services streamed from there already, by the time you receive this newsletter in your inbox.

It will not be perfect. Not all the art will be up on the walls; there may be too many chairs or too few chairs; there may or may not be Coffee Hour; we may or may not be wearing masks. But we will, at last, be together. We will relearn how to be together, work on those rusty social skills that have deteriorated during the pandemic, catch up after too long apart. We may—dare I hope—even sing together?!

Whatever shape it takes, we will rejoice! We have waited for so long and worked for so hard to get to this point. We will express our gratitude to the New Building Team and the Furnishings and Finishings subcommittee. We will thank the current Board and Boards past who steered us through the pandemic. We will inaugurate a new Board to lead us through what remains of the interim period. We will have a child dedication. We will have many, many important conversations about who we are and where we're going.

(We will not complain about color choices or missing items in the kitchen or the landscaping. Fixing problems comes later. The first step is: joy.)

For now, let's rejoice. Let's fill this new building with a joyful noise. Let's pat ourselves on the back. Let's throw parties. Let's wear that new-building smell out, because at the end of the day, it's not about the building. Or rather, it's not just about this building. It's about what we're going to use this building for. It's about how this building will serve our vision and mission.

Despite everything, we still have so much to celebrate. I can't wait to celebrate with everyone—in person!

Joyfully,

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 and 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.

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May Worship Services

Sundays at 10:30AM on Zoom

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

May 1: Braiding Sweetgrass – Harriet Altman

As Unitarian Universalists, the interconnectedness embodied in “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,” one of our seven principles, is familiar to us all. In this service, we will deepen our appreciation of this principle through an exploration of Robin Wall Kimmerer’s bestselling book, “Braiding Sweetgrass.” Our focus will be on the many gifts we receive from Earth and how we can accept these gifts and then respond with reciprocal acts of respect and caring for all of Nature.

May 8: The Labor of Creation – Rev. Ma

During our first worship service all together in our new sanctuary, we will contemplate the pain and messiness that comes with creating something new. We are in the process of moving into a new building and creating a new community. What awaits us?

May 15: A Musical Celebration – Yuri Yamamoto

Guest minister Yuri Yamamoto will lead a musical journey on love and community. Bring your whole selves, family, and friends to this intergenerational worship. Expect to be surprised, deepened, and uplifted!

Bio: Yuri Yamamoto (they/she) lives in Raleigh, North Carolina and is a hospital chaplain, musician, expressive art practitioner, and activist against intersecting systemic oppression. Yuri has a Master of Divinity from Shaw University Divinity School and PhD in Genetics from North Carolina State University. Yuri is commissioned and endorsed as a Christian minister and for institutional chaplaincy by Federation of Christian Ministries. Yuri co-led the publication of Unitarian Universalists of Color: Stories of Struggle, Courage, Love and Faith and her website is <https://accompanist4thesoul.com/>.

May 22: Science and the Divine – Rev. Ma

Science and religion have often been portrayed as mutually exclusive realms at total odds with each other. But what if science is just another window into the divine? How does science bring us closer to wonder and mystery?

May 29: "Memorial Day," from the Touchstones Project – Worship Committee Members

After the Civil War, both Northerners and Southerners flocked to Memorial Day celebrations that urged peace, forgiveness, and honoring the heroism of all soldiers. Memorial Day in its earliest forms met the psychological and social need for a holiday naming, marking, and celebrating the African-American experience of slavery and liberation. And so, you are invited, on Memorial Day weekend, to be part of remembering.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Hello my friends! Happy May!

It is my pleasure to return to my role as Board President after a 2-month long medical leave. During my absence, I received many heartfelt best wishes and remain touched by the outpouring of love and support. I couldn't be more grateful to be among the goodness of our people.

These two months has taken my spirit on a roller coaster ride. I had a bit of a scare when a mass was discovered in my belly. Then, I underwent a second shoulder surgery to repair mistakes made by the first surgeon. Now, after 6 weeks in the sling, I have minimal use of that arm, but feel confident my strength and range of motion will return with 6-9-months of physical therapy. Positive thoughts and hard work are the key, right? I look forward most to being able to create beautiful pies and cakes again. I miss it so much.

Like everyone else, I am so happy to finally have our Certificate of Occupancy for our new digs on Bridges Street. Every time, I drive by our new campus, I see a memorial to the UCF spirit. First, I see a memorial to the trust our forebears placed in us to wisely use the endowment fund they created to build a new facility. Second, I see a memorial to the years of hard work and generosity of members of the current congregation. Third, I see a memorial to our collective hopes and dreams for UCF's future.

I remember, as part of the entourage viewing the Bridges Street property for the first time, how excited I was at the possibilities. Before that day, we questioned whether finding a suitable location was in the cards. Yet, when we did, nothing slowed the collective press of our hearts, hands, and minds to make our dreams a reality. The entire congregation stepped up in a multitude of large and small ways, working in symphony with one another. Every committee, every team, and every individual played their parts in harmony with all the others. Because we all worked together, we all succeeded together. Congratulations to us all!

Now we are approaching the day we will occupy our new UCF home for worship services for the first time. Soon, it will provide a home for the dreams our hearts have held inside. On that day, let us all enter our new sanctuary with gratitude for our forebears, for each other and for ourselves. Take a moment to look around at your brothers and sisters and know that together you have entered a place with history, a place of communal accomplishment, and a place of possibilities. You are home.

All the best!
Melva

May News and Farewell from your New Building Team

This is the last official NBT update. There are a few 'punch list' items still to be dealt with by our general contractor, but we are confident these will be taken care of expeditiously. (The last payment to Smithson relies on it!)

You heard it here first, after three years and two months the NBT is going out of business. What a trip this has been. As referred to in the earlier newsletters, "Neither hurricane, lack of contractors, nor world pandemic has stopped us from presenting to the congregation, a new home." We have had both help and setbacks from Morehead City Planning, but even the setbacks made the project outcome better than we expected.

Some of the subcommittees that were formed will continue with their important work to keep the 'Campus' beautiful and sound well into the future. Some things have not been finished – like the fence in the back of the Reverend Sally B. White Center. It was one of the first items we tackled, which led to needing a better land survey, which led to buying more land (for \$10.00), which eventually led to what you now see at 2900 Bridges St.

The original team members consist of Joe Naset and Guerry Willis - CoChairs, Christoph Hintze, Dan Phillips, and Bob Thomas. We fondly remember Anne Fiske – Secretary, who passed away and the Secretary position was filled by Karen Baggott. Casey Benavides left for South America with her children and husband when his graduate studies were completed. Tom Cullison graciously accepted the BOT request to fill Casey's position on the team.

Thank you all for your patience these last three years. Thank you all for your confidence that we would complete the task you requested of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Phillips

Board of Trustees Business



Making plans for first in-person service in the new building on May 8, 2022.



Planning for the Dedication of the new sanctuary and the Rev. Sally B. White Center.



Addressing possibilities for weekly cleaning of the facility.



Planning details for the Annual meeting on June 12, 2022.



Guided Tours at 2900 Bridges Street

The Leadership Council is hosting
3 tour times:

-Tuesday, May 3—10 AM to Noon
-Wednesday, May 4—6 PM to 8 PM
-Saturday, May 7—3 PM to 5 PM



Each tour should only take 30 minutes or so, and tour guides will be available to answer questions. People can float in and out; just come to the Sanctuary main door to begin your tour. We will host a more formal Open House in the Fall, but wanted to make sure members and friends will be familiarized with our new digs before we start in-person services. We look forward to seeing you there!

5th Sunday Collection for NAACP and Citizens for Diversity in Education Scholarships

May is a month with five Sundays and it is our tradition for the Social Action Committee to select an organization or cause to receive a special collection. For May, we will be splitting the collection evenly between two scholarship funds.

For many years now, the Carteret County NAACP has offered a scholarship to students at Carteret County high schools. This year, they are hoping to award four \$500 scholarships to students at any of the three county high schools – East Carteret, West Carteret and Croatan. Several members of UCF are members of the local NAACP and Rev. Sally White was the Chair of the Scholarship Committee for several years. In the past, a Gospel Festival was held at which money was collected for these scholarships, but for the last two years, they were unable to hold the event because of COVID, and this year they are doing a Gospel Fest on Zoom, which will probably not bring in as big an audience as the live event. We would like to help supplement the funds raised at the Gospel Fest to be sure that all four scholarships can be awarded.

The other scholarship is a new one that is funded by the Citizens for Diversity in Education (CDE) -- a group formed several years ago to address the lack of people of color in professional roles (teachers and administrators) in our county public education system. Both Jo Ellen Essex and Sally Davis are members of this group. Jo Ellen describes it as a "grow your own" scholarship for county HS students of color who are thinking of becoming educators, in the hopes that they may come back and teach here. Sally Davis added that the few teachers of color that are currently working in the county system were mostly people who grew up here in Carteret County and returned because they had roots here. She said that our county office has been trying to attract teachers and administrators of color but it is very competitive, so the CDE group thought that offering a scholarship to help local students of color who would like to go into education would be a good way to increase our diversity in the long run.

During the month of May, please donate as you can to help us support these very worthy and needed scholarships.

You can donate in the usual ways:

- put a check in the collection plate or mail it to UCF Treasurer at
PO Box 425, Morehead City, 28557 (put 5th 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 "5th Sunday".**



Children's Religious Education

Hi Everyone,

Yes, the answer is yes, we are getting closer to being together in our new church building. It is so exciting to see everything come together. There is no firm date on when we will open for service as we still have lots to prepare for, so please watch the weekly update in *The Wave* for the announcement date for opening. If you receive the Coastline Newsletter you should also be receiving *The Wave*; if not, please let me know so I can get you on the Breeze database.

My daughter, Jill and granddaughter, Halle and I have been very busy in the new building getting the nursery ready for our little ones with a theme of "Under the Sea" on the walls, and no, no one needs to wear their fins to enter the room! Thank you to others who have offered to help – don't worry there will be lots more to do. One wall down, another to go. The other children's room will be having a theme of "Around the World – and what does it mean to be a UU." This room will be painted after we start back together.

There will be *Open House dates the first week of May* so check out those dates here in the newsletter. This small open house preview is for all to come see our new sanctuary and annex building, new meeting spaces, and offices. A grand opening will be further down the road.

We will be having open registration for the families on Saturday, May 7th from 3 to 5 p.m. if you would like your child/children to be part of their own spiritual exploration activities. Come by and see families you might not have seen for two years due to the pandemic and reconnect. I can't wait to see all of you.

If you have any questions about the open house and you can't make the registration day, please let me know and we can make other arrangements.

My email is ucf.re.sarah@gmail.com or my cell phone is 603-254-5559.



The big white lump sleeping on the floor is Jill's service dog, Honor.

Our story this month continues with our Kid's Principles and the book [Everybody Is Important](#) by Jennifer Dant.

Our first principle is that every single person is important, our second principles is that we treat one another with respect, and our third principle is that we spend our whole lives learning how to be the best people we can be. The fourth principle we will talk about this month. (...continued)

Children's Religious Education, continued

Kid's Principle #4

Together we learn about the world
and what is TRUE

Story #1

ROGER holds a hose over small plants poking through the ground. The sun is warm on his skin and reminds him of his grandmother saying that eating from a garden is like eating sunshine. Roger always thought it was a weird thing to say, but now it makes him smile.

His grandmother loved working in her garden. After she died, the minister at her funeral said she was in heaven, but Roger's parents told him her body would go back to earth. Roger wonders where she really is now.



Story #2

JOEY is helping his mom set the table. "Cousin Bill is bringing his partner Tom over for dinner." Joey's mom says, Joey asks what "partner" means.

"It means that Bill and Tom love each other and have decided to spend their lives together, like me and Daddy," she says.

"Bill sounds really happy and we're happy for him," she adds. Joey has known Bill his whole life and feels certain he wouldn't do anything wrong, but he has heard kids at school say mean things about men who live together.

Q1: Who could Roger talk to
about his question?

Q2: Do you think Roger will ever know
for sure where his grandmother is now?



Q1: Which do you think is more
true: Joey's belief about Bill or
what the other kids say?

Q2: What do you think Joey
could say to the other kids
about Bill and Tom?

Next month's Principle #5 – Everyone has the right to use their voice and be heard.

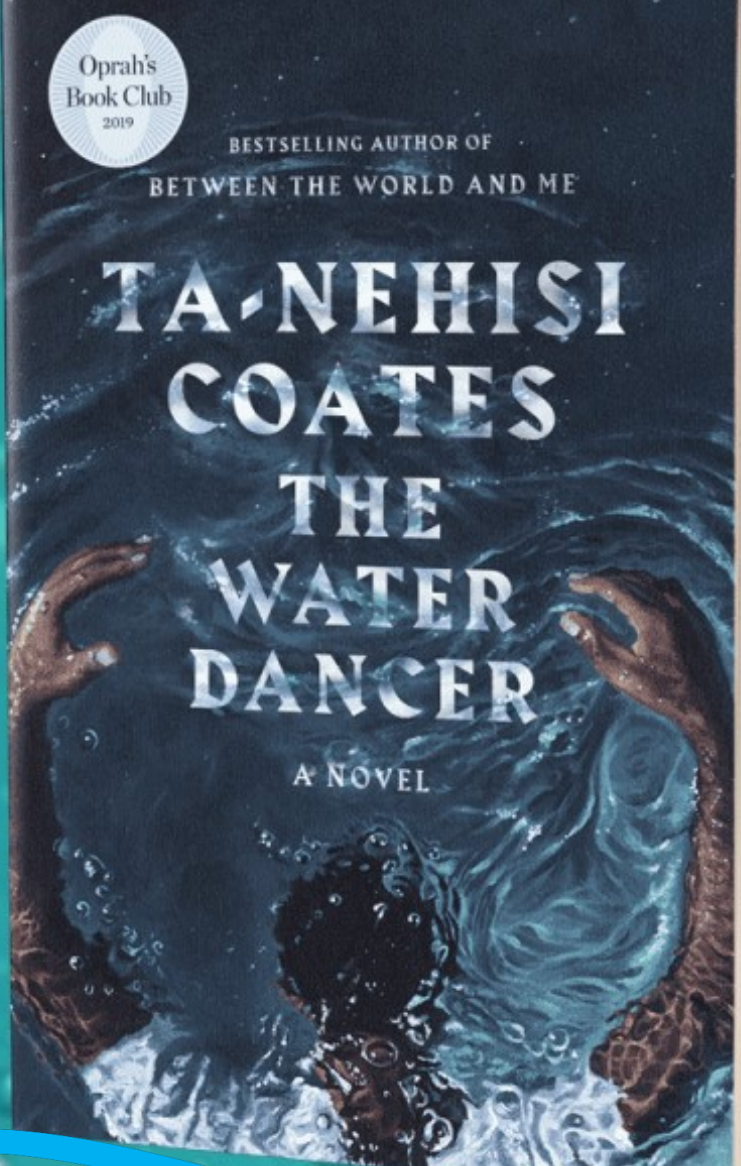
AARG

The Water Dancer, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, will be discussed by the Anti-Racist Reading Group on Thursday, May 19 at 7 p.m. 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 to understand who she is, what she was born into, and the bonds of familial love. A very moving memoir.

Both books seem to be very worthwhile reads!

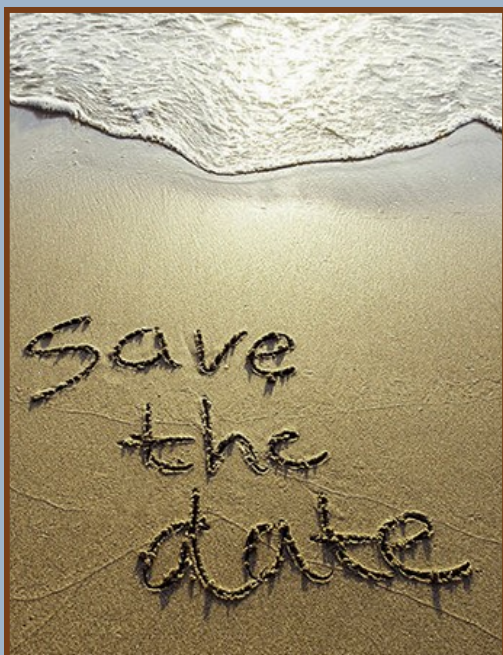


SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

from 6:00-7:30 with a bonus Q&A session from 7:30-8:00

UU Justice North Carolina and South Carolina UU Justice Ministry are partnering to host an event for individuals and congregations that want to deepen their understanding and knowledge about Welcoming Congregations and gender and transgender identities. This will also be a kick off for an upcoming course, Trans Inclusion in Congregations, that UCF hopes to offer in August and September. More information, including the registration link, will be included in the June Coastline and in weekly Wave emails.



MEDITATION

Mondays at 6:15PM

Please Note: Some of our meditation leaders will be on vacation in early summer, so Adult RE is looking for someone willing to lead a few meditation sessions. Interested? Please contact Sally Davis if you are able to help.



YOGA

Wednesdays at 8AM

Pastoral Care Tip

We all know a quality nights sleep is good for us with 7-9 hours being the goal. Lack of sleep can result in depression, increased blood pressure, lowered immunity and unstable glucose levels to name a few. Incorporating daily exercise, meditation or mindfulness and limiting stimulation like tech devices and caffeine before bedtime can all help to get the desired good nights sleep.

Mental Health Family Support Group

The Mental Health Family Support Group is an opportunity to share experiences and challenges of having family members or friends who live with mental illness. Meetings are being held on Zoom on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:30. 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

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

Women's Discussion Group

In May, the Women's Discussion Group will be meeting on the second Monday, May 9 at 12:30. Closer to then we will decide if we will gather in person or on Zoom. **Our topic will be games.**

What are your favorite indoor games (board games, card games, etc.)? If you can, bring your favorite for show and tell.

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.

Green Sanctuary Meeting

Come one, come all to the Green Sanctuary Spring committee meeting on Tuesday, May 3, at 10:00 am in Classroom 7 of the Sally B. White Center! We'll be making plans for the coming months, and it's sure to be exciting. Some events under consideration are the annual Greening of the Church, configuring our activities in the brand-new sanctuary to be harmonious with our precious Earth, garden planning, a ribbon cutting for the electric charging stations (now operational!), and more. Please join us!!

Green Tip

May and June are traditional months for weddings – a joyous time to celebrate the creation of a new family! Unfortunately, the excessive trappings of a 21st century American wedding can create an environmental burden. From paper goods to discarded catered food to party favors to use of fossil fuels in destination weddings, there are many potential negative impacts. It doesn't have to be that way, though, if you factor in the environmental cost as you plan your special event. A simple ceremony with locally grown flowers can be just as lovely and memorable as an elaborate affair, and vintage wedding gowns can be beautifully elegant. A food bank could be the recipient of leftover catered food. For more ideas, check out websites such as <https://greenweddingshoes.com/10-ways-to-plan-an-eco-friendly-wedding/>.



Hands Across the Sand

Mark May 21, 2022, on your calendar for this year's **Hands Across The Sand** celebration of our coastal environment and commitment to protect this precious ecosystem. UCF Green Sanctuary members will be present, and we'd love to have lots of participation from UCF members and friends! Come at 11:45 to the Emerald Isle Pier; we'll join hands at noon.

Parking will be available on a pay-up-front basis, but you can be reimbursed when you leave. There may be a second location at Fort Macon this year; stay tuned in *The Wave* during May for more information.

Please join us for this fun event!

www.handsacrossthesand.org

Zero Waste Seminar

Have you been wondering how you can reduce the amount of trash you generate? Join us for a Zero Waste Presentation sponsored by Adult RE and Green Sanctuary. Linda Rudd will present lots of tips and practical information for treading more lightly on our precious mother earth.

Zero Waste households are most successful when they involve the whole family; this presentation is designed for adults and teens over the age of 12. We'll gather sometime during the week of June 13, date and time to be determined. Look for details in the June *Coastline*.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Choir Rehearsal 9:15AM Worship Service 10:30AM <div>Mother's Day</div>	2 Meditation 6:15PM	3 Green Sanctuary 10:00AM Guided Sanctuary Tour 10:00AM Worship Committee 12PM	4 Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:00PM Guided Sanctuary Tour 6:00PM	5 Leadership Council 9:30AM	6	7 CRE Open Registration 3:00PM Guided Sanctuary Tour 3:00PM
8 Choir Rehearsal 9:15AM Worship Service 10:30AM <div>In-Person!</div>	9 Women's Discussion Group 12:30PM Meditation 6:15PM	10	11 Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:00PM	12 Board of Trustees 7PM	13	14
15 Choir Rehearsal 9:15AM Worship Service 10:30AM Social Action 11:45AM	16 Meditation 6:15PM	17 Finance Committee 9AM Committee On Ministry 1PM	18 Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:00PM	19 AARG 7:00PM	20	21 Hands Across The Sand 11:45AM
22 Choir Rehearsal 9:15AM Worship Service 10:30AM	23 Meditation 6:15PM	24	25 Deadline for June Newsletter Yoga 8AM Mental Health Family Support Group 2:00PM	26	27	28
29 Choir Rehearsal 9:15AM Worship Service 10:30AM	30 Meditation 6:15PM <div>Memorial Day</div>	31				

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Contact us!

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