



OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Morehead City, NC

May 2023

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.



Dear Beloveds,

It has been a year since we've moved into the new building! And what a year it's been. We've had weddings, funerals, and child dedications; we've welcomed new members; we've hosted blood drives and screened documentaries. And by this time next year we will, hopefully, know who your new minister will be.

We have a lot to get done between now and then. We're putting together a Search Committee, we're hashing out a new vision and mission for this next chapter in UCF's life, and we're going to put together a strategic growth plan.

So what is your role in all of this?

Show up. Show up to potlucks and picnics and First Sunday Fundays. Show up to game nights, beach cleanups, and nature walks. Have fun. Laugh. Talk to each other. Get to know each other. Have lunch, dinner, and coffee with each other. Remember what it means to be a community. Pitch in to Coffee Hour, sing in the choir, help move the chairs. Wonder. Light a chalice. Do some yoga. Meditate. Pray.

Show up to Sunday morning services and to the Annual Meeting. Show up to Coffees with the Board and focus groups. Show up to our surveys and phone calls. Show up on Zoom and show up in person. Show up with your time, treasure, and talent.

When we show up, we don't just show up for ourselves. We're showing up for those who aren't able to show up today, and we show up for those who are going to show up twenty years from now. So show up. Show up for yourself, and show up for everyone who needs the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, now and in the future.

Blessings

~Rev. Micah C. Ma



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President's Column

General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be June 21-25 in Pittsburgh. JoEllen Essex and I are planning to attend General Assembly (GA), and are willing to be voting delegates. The number of delegates is determined by the number of members of the congregation. If there are others who want to be delegates to General Assembly, I'm sure we can come to an agreement on how to cast our 2 congregational votes. Rev. Ma will also attend GA.

Recommendations, including revisions to Article II, Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalists Association Bylaws, will be presented at GA. Article II holds the covenant that member congregations pledge when becoming members of the UUA. It has also been the section containing the Seven Principles. The decision to be made this year is NOT the adoption of the proposal of the Article II Study Commission, but rather whether to advance the revision to a vote at the 2024 General Assembly. Delegates to GA will also vote for a new President of the Association; Rev. Dr. Sophia Betancourt is the only candidate for UUA President (Another dropped out of consideration.)

JoEllen and I have been doing some study of the revisions recommended to Article II, but want to hear what your feelings are about this important vote. For more information on the adoption and amendment process, and to read the full report of the Article II Study Commission, please visit uua.org/a2sc. I've learned that there were initially 6 Principles 60 years ago when the UUA Bylaws were first written after the merger of the Unitarians and Universalists, that the Seventh Principle was added about 40 years ago, and that the patriarchal language of the Principles was changed during the Women's Movement. The last revision of Article II was in 1987. The language of the proposed revision includes all of the Seven Principles and also the Eighth Principle, but with calls to live into the values, not just to covenant to affirm and promote them. While the online deadline was April 30 for amendments, amendments can be made by delegates until June 5. There are 3 online discussions of amendments scheduled in May.

Please go to uua.org/a2sc for details of these amendment discussions and the voting process.

Please contact me and/or JoEllen to let us know your opinions so that our votes at General Assembly will consider your views. We'll give you a report when we return!

If you didn't complete the Search Committee Survey, you will receive a phone call from either a Transition Team member or a Board member. Please let your Board know who you think should be appointed to Search Committee to look for UCF's full-time contract minister to begin in 2024.

Sincerely, Susan Fetzer

President's Column Cont.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 11, 2024, at 12:00 noon is the date and time of the Annual Meeting of Unitarian Coastal Fellowship! Please mark your calendars to attend. Virtual attendance and absentee voting will also be possible. A quorum of 50% of members is required for being able to vote on a bylaws change which will be sent with the agenda 2 weeks before the meeting.

Reminder—agenda items must be submitted to Susan Fetzner, President, before the Board meeting, 5 pm on May 18.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At the April meeting, your Board of Trustees:

Reviewed the April Coffee with the Board

Heard a report on the Security Checklist in preparation for developing Safety and Security Procedures during meetings and worship services.

Received a report from the Welcoming Congregation Team

Heard a report on the Fire Safety Checklist in preparation for developing a Fire Safety Policy Plan to begin to revise the Mission Statement of UCF



Family Ministry

May is here and so is the **First Sunday Fun Day, this Sunday May 7, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM**. Everyone is invited to join us in making a Pinata – celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Then we will have a “smashing good” time after the Service, so bring your camera to catch the action! We will also be creating some cool cards to send to our congregants in times of joy or sorrow, or even some cards for Mother’s Day. We will be inside and outside, enjoying bubbles and chalk art on the patio, with lemonade and cookies. **ALL AGES** are invited!



Also, **DON'T FORGET** to **pick up your seedlings from last month**. Some of them are getting quite tall and they want to go home with you!

Do you have a craft, idea or fun activity we could do on another First Sunday Fun Day? Please contact Jo Ellen Essex at 777-4012, or joelsx@yahoo.com



We had many guests join us for Flower Communion, and they sure did enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt...especially the candy afterward!

Upcoming Services



May 7: The Construction of Peace - Rev Micah

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “There can be no peace in the world unless there’s justice, and there can be no justice without peace.” In other words, to construct a peaceful world, we must work toward a just world. Peace is not the absence of conflict: it is the presence of justice.



May 14: Happy Birthday to 2900 Bridges Street! - Rev Micah

It has been one year since we’ve occupied our beautiful new building at 2900 Bridges Street! Today, we celebrate our accomplishments and reflect on the purpose this building—and this congregation—serves.



May 21: On Continuing Revelation

- Rev. Micah

Our religious siblings the Quakers believe in continuing revelation: the idea that the light within—the direct experience of the divine—provides illumination and guidance to individuals and groups. This is also why Unitarian Universalism is a “living tradition” with no creed or dogma. Since revelation is ongoing—since we are always receiving divine wisdom—we must always be ready to change our ideas.

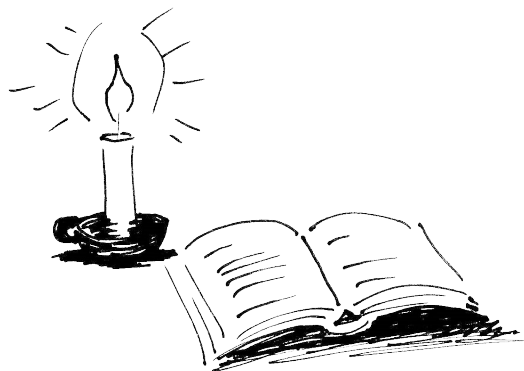
May 28: In Memory - Tom Wentworth

On this Memorial Day weekend, we honor and mourn U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. We love and miss our siblings, cousins, parents, children, and friends.

Upcoming UCF Events

The Women's Discussion Group Monday, **May 8th at 12:30pm** in the Social Hall

Bring your lunch and hot tea will be available. Our topic will be highlights or low points from your high school days. It will be interesting thinking back to those years. And I look forward to hearing about your high school adventures. For more information about the Women's Discussion Group or to be added to our email list, contact Susan Roberts at landfall2@mindspring.com or 843-217-1885.



UCF Bookclub Please join us on **May 15th at 4pm** to discuss the book "Eleanor and Hicks" by Susan Quinn.

A warm, intimate account of the love between Eleanor Roosevelt and reporter Lorena Hickok- a relationship that, over more than three decades, transformed both women's love and empowered them to play significant roles in one of the tumultuous periods in American history. For info contact Joan Burton at ldybg223@aol.com

Mental Health Family Support Group *** Time Change **Mondays 3pm-4:30pm**

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. 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

Weekly Meditation **Mondays 5:30pm-6pm**

Come meditate with us on Zoom on Monday afternoons. You can sign on between 5:30 and 5:40 and meditation will be from 5:40 to 6:00. The first Monday of each month we will meet at UCF for a coloring meditation led by Sandra Shelp. The Zoom sessions will be guided by either Holly Rogers, Daryl Walker, Virginia Woodhead, or Susan Roberts. We enjoy experiencing a variety of meditation styles. Please contact Susan Roberts at landfall2@mindspring.com if you would like to be added to the meditation Zoom email list.

Game Night:

Join us **Friday, May 12, 6:30pm** in the Social Hall.

Vespers Events

Wednesday, May 3 in the Social Hall 4:30pm Philosophy in the Afternoon 6pm Vespers

Wednesday, May 17 in the Sanctuary 4:30pm Flagpole Discussion 6pm Vespers 6:30pm Flagpole Discussion

Upcoming UCF Events

Flagpole Discussion

In conjunction with the Welcoming Congregation Committee, the Adult Spiritual Enrichment Committee will host a roundtable conversation about installing a flagpole outside our church building capable of flying the United States flag, the progress flag, and a third rotating flag. Please bring your ideas, thoughts, and feelings to share on **May 10, 2023, 4:30pm and/or May 17, 2023, 4:30pm and 6:30pm** in the Social Hall. Zoom will be offered at the 4:30 sessions. For more information, contact: Holly Rogers 509-607-2055.

Building and Grounds Committee's "Broadway" Debut

Lights, Music, Action! Before the Service on **May 14**, the outstanding musical players on the Building and Grounds Committee will treat you to a performance you will not soon forget! We have been on our new campus for a whole year now and in celebration we want you to know more about this special committee. We have been busy organizing and planning ideas and projects, as well as making sure all procedures and systems are in place for a well-run, day to day, welcoming and green campus. Don't miss this command performance!

Buddhism Video Lecture Series

Landon Elswick will present the second session of the video lecture series on Buddhism **Wednesday, May 24, at 5:00pm** in the UCF Social Hall. There will be six sessions altogether, each on the fourth Wednesday of the month, through August. Please join us for this interesting and informative look into one of the world's great religions! Questions? Contact Holly Rogers at hollyer54@yahoo.com.



UCF's Next Blood Drive

May 11, 2023 10 AM to 3 PM

UCF will be holding a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, May 11th in our Social Hall. There is always a big need for blood in our area. A team comes all the way from Greenville to spend the day with us – let's make it worth their while. And, if we get 30 units of blood, we get \$300 to spend on something we need. We really need more donors only 10 signed up so far! Sign up for an appointment [HERE](#).

Social Justice Committee News



Hope Mission Participation

The Social Justice committee is now participating in Hope Mission's "Soup Kitchen" activities. On April 4, Joan Burton, Jane Hines, and Sarah Wax, assisted in the serving of the meal. On April 6, Harriet Altman assisted in serving the meal at the Recovery graduation, which takes place once a month at the Peer Recovery Center.

Stay tuned for more opportunities to participate in this or other Service Days, which are an integral part of our mission!

Green Sanctuary News

We Need Your Bras!

Ladies, as you clean out your closets and organize your drawers consider donating your gently used or even worn-out bras to a good cause. The Green Sanctuary and Social Justice committees will be collecting bras for "The Bra Recyclers" **during the month of May**. This organization recycles used bras and new underwear, giving them to those in need. There will be a collection box in the Sanctuary ladies' room. Thank you for keeping items out of the landfill and giving them to a good cause!

For more information about this organization visit <https://www.brarecycling.com>



Racial Justice Committee News

Big News!

The Racial Justice Group under the umbrella of the Social Justice Committee is requesting that the UCF Board put the following Resolution on the Agenda for the Annual Meeting on June 11, 2023!

We, the congregation of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship vote to pass this existing [8th Principle](#) at our **June 11, 2023, Annual Meeting**.

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

We have had very positive feedback for the continuation of our educational groups to learn more about racism and how we can become more involved in building our local Beloved Community. The Racial Justice Group offered three sessions at two different time frames this spring that provided an opportunity for the entire congregation to engage in the discussion of “how and why” this could and should happen.

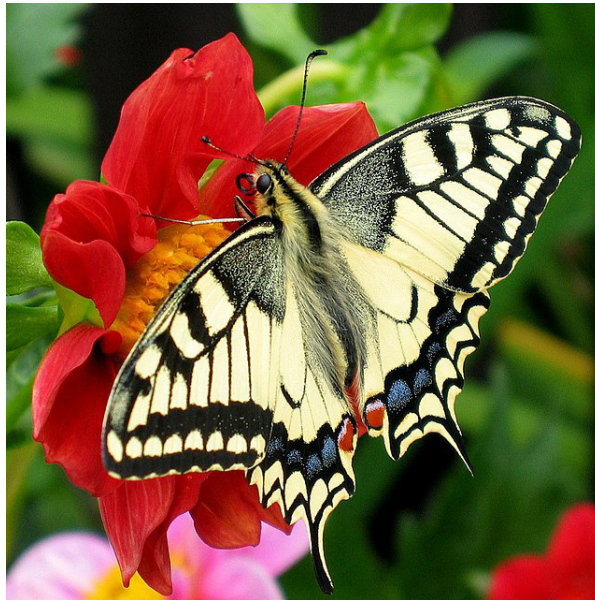
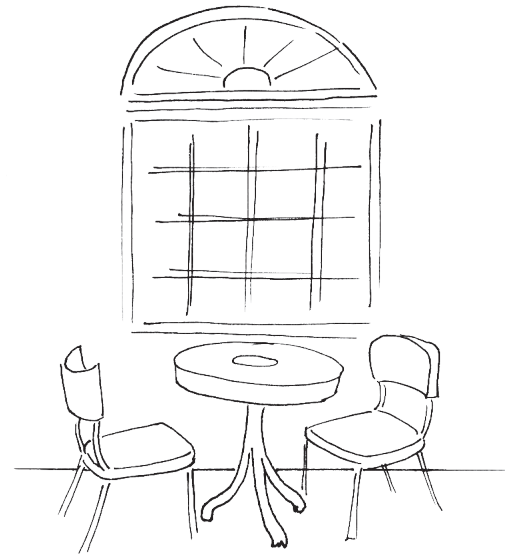
Our goal is to see UCF continue the hope-filled work ahead to make the 8th Principle a reality! We sincerely hope the UCF Board and Congregation will support this official action Item on the June 11, 2023, Annual Meeting Agenda.



Tips from the Team

Pastoral Care Tip

Have you looked out of your window recently? Try it! Look out the window and see if you notice any birds, flowers, or insects. Let your mind wander; you might stumble across a new idea. If the sun is up, looking out the window can also reset your circadian rhythm with natural sunlight and improve your mental health and your ability to fall asleep. Taking a few minutes to notice the world around you is never a waste of time.



Green Tip

You're sleeping peacefully on a spring night, and suddenly you're awakened by a noise on your back deck. Could it be a raccoon, an opossum, or a bear!?! Or you're enjoying a cup of afternoon tea while watching the beautiful birds at your backyard feeder and laughing at the antics of your squirrels. These are the delights of encouraging wildlife in your backyard. Even in town, you can make your backyard wildlife friendly. Select native berry-bearing shrubs; plant a pollinator-friendly flowering plants and a few native trees; leave dead and dying trees (ones that don't threaten your house!) – these provide food for wood-boring insects and the woodpeckers who eat them; provide water in a small pond or birdbath, and, please, keep it clean; provide food such as corn, peanuts, and birdseed at ground level. With a few amendments, your backyard can become an enjoyable wildlife sanctuary – beneficial for both the wildlife and for you!

May Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 3pm Mental Health Family Support Group 5:30pm Meditation	2	3 4:30pm Philosophy in the Afternoon 6pm Vespers	4 10am Leadership Council	5	6
7 9am Choir Practice 9am First Sunday Fun Day 10:30am Service	8 12:30 Women's Discussion 3pm Mental Health Family Support Group 5:30pm Meditation	9 4pm Finance Committee	10 4:30pm Congregational Conversations	11 10am Red Cross 3pm Membership Committee Meeting	12 6:30pm Game Night	13
14 9am Choir Practice 10:30am Service 11:45am Building and Grounds Task Force	15 3pm Mental Health Family Support Group 4pm Book Club 5:30pm Meditation	16 6pm NAACP Meeting	17 3pm Worship Comm. 4:30 Congregational Conversations 6pm Vespers 6:30pm Congregational Conversations	18 2pm ASE Committee 5pm Board of Trustees Meeting	19 4pm Finance Committee	20
21 9am Choir Practice 10:30am Service 11:45am Social Justice Committee	22 3pm Mental Health Family Support Group 5:30pm Meditation	23	24 5pm Buddhism Video	25 Coastline News Due	26	27
28 9am Choir Practice 10:30am Service	29 3pm Mental Health Family Support Group 5:30pm Meditation	30	31			

The UCF Team

Board of Trustees

President: Susan Fetzer sgfetzer@gmail.com
Vice President: Tom Wentworth tom_wentworth@ncsu.edu
Secretary: Joe Ellen Essex jolnsx@yahoo.com
Treasurer: David Hughes ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com
Leadership Trustee: Linda Rudd lerudd@ncsu.edu

Minister Rev. Micah C. Ma mma@ucfnc.org

Choir Director Tom Cullison tcullison@ucfnc.org

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Committee on Ministry Louise Hughes lhughes2@ec.rr.com

Adult Spiritual Enrichment Holly Rogers hollyer54@yahoo.com

Care Circle Coordinator Martha Kenworthy martha.kenworthy@gmail.com



Contact us!

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