



# OUR COASTLINE

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship  
Morehead City, NC

May, 2024

## 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,

What happened to April?!

Somehow May is already upon us, and my time here grows ever shorter. June 30th will be my last day—and my last Sunday—with the congregation.

I do hear that a goodbye party is being planned for June as well. I'm trying to set things up, as well as I can, for a smooth transition. There will of course be bumps—I'm not perfect, and there's sure to be something I overlook—but I have faith that y'all will fill in the gaps, as you have always done.

Meanwhile, I am taking a look at my North Carolina bucket list. As I write this letter, I don't know yet where my next interim ministry will take me. (That information comes out on May 15th!) But I know that it will likely take me away from the Carolinas—and maybe away from the South entirely—and so I'm ticking off my boxes. I plan to drive down to the rather confusingly named Beaufort, SC for the Gullah Geechee Festival; somehow I still haven't been to Cape Lookout, which is just embarrassing at this point; and I have to make sure that I haven't missed any of the local museums.

And I am, of course, trying to wrap things up as well as I can to hand off to the next minister. I'm trying to make sure that Sarah Grenier is well trained and that our Children & Family Ministries program (which is bursting at the seams!) is running smoothly before I leave. I'm hoping to set up some processes for leadership development before I go, because that is not something the new minister is going to be able to help with immediately! And beyond that, well. There's just never enough time.

Such is the nature of interim work. Such is the nature of life! Things don't get finished. They get started, momentum is built, and at some point we have to be able to let go and trust that the next person will carry it forward. So it is with congregations: we don't finish things. We just carry forward what the people before us began, and we hand it off to others to continue onward.

Faithfully,  
~Rev. Micah C. Ma

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# President's Column

## Coastline Article May 2024, From the President

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition, and part of living is changing and growing. UCF recently had a New Member Sunday welcoming seventeen new members! Woohoo! Hurray! Brilliant! I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you better! Watch UCF grow!

The member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association have met yearly in June for business meetings, workshops, and worship at the General Assembly since 1961 when the Unitarians and the Universalists merged. This year's Virtual only General Assembly includes a vote on a proposed revision of Article 2 of the UUA Bylaws. Article 2 states the purposes and covenant of the Association and its member congregations. Because Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition not a static one, its purposes and covenant in Article 2 of its bylaws have had several revisions over the years.

In the past, UCF delegates have voted their own conscience, but because this is a major revision of the UUA Bylaws, I am proposing that there be a congregational vote at the June UCF Annual Meeting to direct UCF's two voting delegates' votes on this issue. JoEllen Essex and I were UCF delegates to GA in 2023, and voted on the proposal to advance the revision of Article 2 for a vote at the 2024 General Assembly.

The final proposed revision of Article 2, the letter from the Article 2 Study Commission, and the letter from the UUA Board can be found at this link.

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

Please take time to read the proposal and the process used by the Study Commission to arrive at this document so that you have the information you need to vote at the UCF Annual Meeting in June. One concern expressed is that the Unitarian Universalist Principles currently in Article 2 are going away. While the Principles are not stated in the same way in the revision, I think you will find that the proposed revision includes the Seven Principles plus the Eighth Principle that UCF and many other congregations have adopted. It goes further to state not only does the UUA and its member congregations covenant "to affirm and promote" the principles but also promises to do the work, centered in love, needed to make the world a better place living the shared values of justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity.

May it be so,  
Susan Fetzer

# Children & Family Ministries

## Children & Family Ministries From Sarah Grenier

On Sundays with no RE, the kids have asked me, "why didn't we go back to our classroom?!" Even my own son excitedly confirms every morning before we go to church now, "are we going to be in the kid's room?" I hope that's a sign that they are having fun together and slowly absorbing the things we talk about!

In the RE classroom, I've been trying out spirit play style stories with Confucius and the story about a little turtle in the polluted ocean. The kids seemed to enjoy the stories, and we had activities afterwards that related to the story of the day. I'm introducing them to the seven UU principles and how our stories relate to those values. I'm trying to get the kids into a class rhythm and to work through social-emotional conflicts.

In the nursery, we've started care before service. There have been a lot of BIG emotions about this change which is totally normal. Young children do not like to be separated from their parents. However, we must stretch our comfort zones sometimes and know that they will be okay (for our sake as much as theirs). I will continue to rotate toys and make it an engaging environment.

I want to give a BIG BIG BIG thank you to the members who have donated items to children's RE from our wishlist including Wendy, Dave, Susan, and a mystery donor. We've used all these items so far!

And now, for May events:

- **Sunday, May 5th,**
  - \* **10:30AM:** the Children's RE group will draft their own covenant and make class rules.
  - \* **During coffee hour:** Sunday Funday "Music in May"
- **Friday, May 10th, 6:30PM:** Game Night! Bring your favorite board game or play one of ours. We will celebrate all May birthdays with a cake!
- **Sunday, May 12th, 10:30AM:** We will have a Mother's Day story and activities.
- **Sunday, May 19th, 10:30AM:** This will be our spring Child Dedication service. The nursery will be open, but there will be no children's RE. After the service ALL children will be invited to sit down with Rev. Ma during coffee hour.
- **Sunday, May 26th, 10:30AM:** We will have a spirit play story that focuses on generosity and "passing it on."

# Upcoming Services

## May 1, 6pm Beltane

All are welcome to celebrate the coming warmth of summer in pagan ritual. We will make pine cone wands and have a potluck following. Please bring a dish to share!



## May 5, 10:30 AM: The Spirit of Play



It's Children's Day in Japan! What if we all had a day where we celebrated our children and their happiness? In this service, we enter into the playful, curious spirit of the child and also explore the new structure we're using for our children in the classroom: Spirit Play.

## May 12, 10:30 AM: The Many Faces of Mother's Day

While Instagram and Facebook are filled with photos of perfectly crafted breakfasts-in-bed and loving testimonials to the perfect family, the reality is that many people struggle with Mother's Day. These are people with complicated relationships with their mothers; mothers who have recently lost a child; people who struggle with fertility; and many, many more. Together, we celebrate this fraught day while also acknowledging its complexity.



## May 19, 10:30 AM: Children Are a Blessing



It's a child dedication! A children dedication actually: multiple. In this multigenerational service, we bless some of our new children with the elements of the universe, call them by name, and present them with gifts from the congregation. We promise ourselves to be the village that raises the child, because we know: none of us do this alone.

## May 26, 10:30 AM: The Principle of Generosity

A liberal theology of generosity is grounded in our first principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We are worthy of generosity and our dignity compels us to be generous. The Article II Study Commission chose generosity as a value to guide our faith into the future and we will explore this topic in this Touchstones worship service led by Marilyn Cullison.



# Search Committee Update

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

### INTRODUCING OUR NEW MINISTER, LESLIE RUNNELS



We have known from the beginning of Rev. Ma's time with us that they are our interim minister and that their time with UCF ends this July. In June 2023, you approved a Search Committee to find our new, fulltime contract minister. Since this time, the Search Committee, along with the Contract Negotiations team, has worked diligently to locate, interview, research and negotiate a contract and we are **THRILLED** to introduce you to our new minister.

Minister Leslie will begin in August and until she meets us in person, she sends the following hello and an overview of her ministerial record. (There are also hard copies of these on the bulletin board in the Social Hall.)



#### **Hello from Minister Leslie Runnels**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IWNG1yPOvCZWzlt7i0Z6pyBMiaYSobcY/edit>

#### **Ministerial Record Overview for Leslie Runnels**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_DejgEk\\_InLviWxH\\_Ze-m13II3UHJF1/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_DejgEk_InLviWxH_Ze-m13II3UHJF1/edit)

Search Committee members, Tom Cullison, Miriam Green, Sarah Grenier, Penny Hooper, and Amy Jones, extend their sincere gratitude for your trust, feedback, and suggestions that you provided to guide this search. By completing the ministerial search survey, participating in the cottage meetings and coffees with the Search Committee, and reaching out to us with questions and suggestions, you directed the Search Committee's work through every step of this process.

Thank you and welcome to Minister Leslie Runnels!!!

# Social Justice News

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES CANCELLED FOR MAY 2024**

With regret and apologies, the Adult Spiritual Enrichment Committee and the Social Justice Committee is cancelling the film showing on May 9, 2024.

Please join us on June 13 to view "Ghosts in Our Machine", about the lives of animals, which will wrap up our first season!

Contact Holly Rogers with questions.

## **GET READY FOR UU THE VOTE**

Here's a heads up about this year's UU the Vote rollout. This is a nationwide effort by UU's all over the country to get people out to vote. Social Justice Committee co-chairs Harriet and Barb will be participating in a "Captain's Rollout" about the time this newsletter is getting out to you and the rollout for all participants will be on May 14 th at 7:00 PM on Zoom. For that, we will be joined by National UU the Vote Organizer, Nora Rasman, Carolina Jews for Justice Executive Director Abby Lublin, and other guests from our partner organizations across NC. WATCH "THE WAVE" FOR THE REGISTRATION LINK FOR THE STATEWIDE ROLLOUT.

What can you expect from "UU the Vote"?

- We will be asked to write postcards to potential voters. We have done this several times in the past. There has been much research that has found that handwritten postcards that contain voting information in an inviting format are very effective.
- We will be eligible to apply for a \$500 grant from UUA to pay for the postcard materials. Everyone in the congregation, including older children, can volunteer to participate. Usually, they are done in a packet of 20 postcards. You will be given a sample to copy from, colored pens, postcards, a list of names and addresses, and stamps.
- Another option will be phone banking to get out the vote. This also can be done from the comfort of your own home.

Your Social Justice chairs are excited about the opportunity to participate in a statewide effort to "UU the Vote"! This is an effort we can all work on together!!



## March Share the Plate

March's Share the Plate was for Misplaced Mutts. Misplaced Mutts is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, dedicated to rescuing dogs and cats in shelters, and less than ideal home situations, throughout North Carolina. They are based out of Carteret County and operate through a network of foster homes. They created Misplaced Mutts to help animals who suffer and die every year because of negligence and abuse. Through Share the Plate, we were able to send \$758.30 to this wonderful charity.

## May Share the Plate

May's "Share the Plate" donation will go to Carteret Community Theater's Summer Camp Program. Many of you know that this organization was hit hard in Hurricane Florence when its newly renovated building was destroyed, but they have persevered and continued to provide entertainment to the community and wonderful opportunities for children in the area. Click [HERE](#) for more information about this year's summer camps.

Katie Dixon, Director of Youth and Summer Camps for CCT will be at our service on Sunday, May 5th to tell us more.

## Our Little Pantry

Our free food pantry is being checked 4-5 times a week because it is being used by the community frequently. Because of the congregation's donations we have been able to keep up supply pretty well.

Here's some suggestions:

- Drinks (have enough milk)
- Tampons
- Crackers
- Shelf stable snack cheese
- Little Debbie's

Our generosity is making a difference !

# Upcoming Events

## Red Cross Blood Drive – May 14, 2024

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive at UCF will be held on Tuesday, May 14th from 10 AM to 3 PM in our Social Hall. If you regularly give blood or would like to donate for the first time, please mark your calendar for this event. You can go ahead and schedule your appointment [HERE](#).

We would love to get 30 pints of blood, which would give us \$300 to spend on something for our church! Giving blood is easy and will allow you to possibly save a life! There is always a great need for blood donations in our area.



## Who Wants to Take a Field Trip?

Rev. Ma has scheduled a tour of Bonehenge Whale Center in Beaufort on Wednesday, May 29th at 3:15PM. This workshop/museum showcases art, bones, whale science, and more. The tour is completely free. Let Rev. Ma know if you'd like to attend at [mma@ucfnc.org](mailto:mma@ucfnc.org) so they can let the Center know how many guests to expect.

# Upcoming Events

## **Mental Health Family Support Group** Tuesdays, 10am (Zoom)

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. The Mental Health Family Support Group will be meeting on Tuesday mornings on Zoom from 10:00 to 11:30. If you would like to join these meetings or would like more information, please email: [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com)

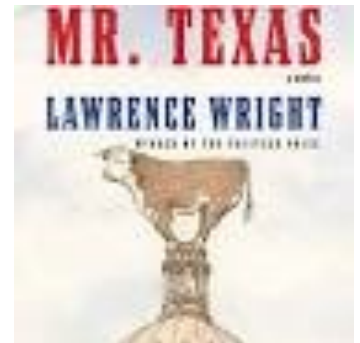


## **UCF Book Club** April 15 at 4pm. SBW

Please join us on Monday May 20th, at 4 pm for the UCF Book Club. We will be discussing the book "Mr Texas" by Laurence Wright.

An NPR Book of the year, this novel tells the story of a dark horse candidate who risks his personal happiness for a career in the Texas House of Representatives.

For info: [ldybg223@aol.com](mailto:ldybg223@aol.com). All welcome.



## **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. Coloring Meditation, Monday, March 4: Please plan to join us in the Social Hall at 5:30pm for meditation music, beautiful coloring books and more colored pencils than are actually legal. Email [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com) to be sent the Zoom link to join us!

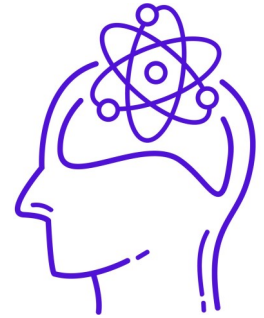


# Upcoming Events Cont.

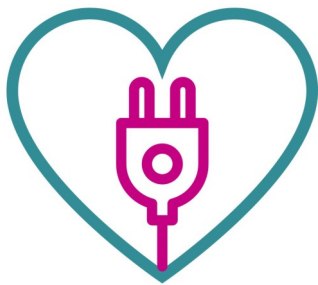
## Philosophy in the Afternoon

Philosophy in the Afternoon is still waiting for your input and ideas on topics that affect us as individuals as well as a society...join us for discussing the ultimately unknowable. We'll be in the Social Hall at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 3; please come and join us! Questions of not a philosophical nature? Contact Holly:

[hollyer54@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyer54@yahoo.com)



## VESPERS....Just What Is It? May 1 and May 15



VESPERS....HAVE YOU TRIED IT? Maybe you would like it... Vespers is a short, contemplative worship service for a mid-week spiritual refresher. Join us in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm. Philosophy in the Afternoon and Vespers is a great combination for balancing the spirit. Hope to see you then!

## Mental Health Wellness Support Group (NEW)



This support group will meet May 21, 2024 (3rd Tuesday of the month) - a monthly meeting at 7:00pm in the Sally B. White Building. This mental health wellness support group is for people with significant mental health challenges and/or struggles with substance abuse, to facilitate self-empowerment and recovery.

## Covenant of Unitarian Universalists Pagans (CUUPS) Meeting (NEW) May 8, 2024 (2nd Wednesday of the Month) 6:30p.m. - 8p.m.

You don't have to be pagan to join. All are welcome. This month, we will discuss the cardinal directions, the elements/elementals, and their various correspondences. Why are they included in different forms of pagan practices? Bring paper and a pen.



# May Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>9am</b> Rev Ma Office Hours <b>6pm</b> VESPERS	2 <b>10am</b> Leadership Council	3 <b>12:30pm</b> Rebecka's Office Hours <b>1:45pm</b> Mental Health Family Group (Zoom)	4 <b>3pm</b> Celebration of Life for Mary Anna Newman
5 <b>10:15am</b> Nursery <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service <b>11:30am</b> First Sunday Family Fun Day	6 <b>5:30pm</b> Meditation	7 <b>10am</b> Mental Health Family Support Group	8 <b>9am</b> Rev Ma Office Hours <b>2pm</b> Finance Committee <b>6:30pm</b> CUUPS	9	10 <b>12:30pm</b> Rebecka Office Hours <b>6pm</b> Game Night	11
12 <b>9am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:15am</b> Nursery <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service	13 <b>4pm</b> Book Club <b>5:30pm</b> Meditation	14 <b>10am</b> Mental Health Family Support Group	15 <b>9am</b> Rev Ma Office Hours <b>6pm</b> VESPERS with Heather	16 <b>2pm</b> ASE Committee <b>5pm</b> Board of Trustees	17 <b>12:30pm</b> Rebecka Office Hours	18
19 <b>9am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:15am</b> Nursery <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service	20 <b>4pm</b> Book Club <b>5:30pm</b> Meditation	21 <b>10am</b> Mental Health Family Support Group <b>6pm</b> NAACP Meeting	22 <b>9am</b> Rev Ma Office Hours <b>10am</b> Buildings & Grounds <b>3:30pm</b> Worship Committee	23	24 <b>12:30pm</b> Rebecka Office Hours	25
26 <b>9am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:15am</b> Nursery <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service <b>11:45am</b> Coffee w Search Committee & Board	27 <b>5:30pm</b> Meditation	28 <b>10am</b> Mental Health Family Support Group	29 <b>9am</b> Rev Ma Office Hours <b>6pm</b> Malawi Early Literacy Team	30	31 <b>12:30pm</b> Rebecka Office Hours	

# The UCF Team

## **Board of Trustees**

President: Susan Fetzer [sgfetzer@gmail.com](mailto:sgfetzer@gmail.com)

Vice President: Mark Hooper [mhooper9@ec.rr.com](mailto:mhooper9@ec.rr.com)

Secretaries: Miriam Green [mwgreen15@gmail.com](mailto:mwgreen15@gmail.com) and  
Susan Roberts [landfall2@mindspring.com](mailto:landfall2@mindspring.com)

Treasurer: Joan Burton [ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com](mailto:ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com)

Leadership Trustee: Linda Rudd [lerudd@ncsu.edu](mailto:lerudd@ncsu.edu)

**Minister** Rev. Micah C. Ma [mma@ucfnc.org](mailto:mma@ucfnc.org)

**Choir Director** Tom Cullison [tcullison@ucfnc.org](mailto:tcullison@ucfnc.org)

**Pianist** Meganne Smith [meganne.lott@gmail.com](mailto:meganne.lott@gmail.com)

## **Children & Family Ministries Committee**

Sarah Grenier [sgrenier@ucfnc.org](mailto:sgrenier@ucfnc.org) and

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**Worship** Marilyn Cullison [mscullison@gmail.com](mailto:mscullison@gmail.com)

**Finance** Jo Ellen Essex [joelsx@yahoo.com](mailto:joelsx@yahoo.com)

**Membership** Penny Hooper [pjhooper@ec.rr.com](mailto:pjhooper@ec.rr.com) and

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**Social Justice** Harriet Altman [harrietaltman@icloud.com](mailto:harrietaltman@icloud.com) and

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

**Green Sanctuary** Penny Hooper [pjhooper@ec.rr.com](mailto:pjhooper@ec.rr.com)

Harriet Altman ([harrietaltman@icloud.com](mailto:harrietaltman@icloud.com))

**Committee on Ministry** Louise Hughes [lhughes2@ec.rr.com](mailto:lhughes2@ec.rr.com)

**Adult Spiritual Enrichment** Holly Rogers [hollyer54@yahoo.com](mailto:hollyer54@yahoo.com)



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