

#### **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.



### Aloha 'Oe (Farewell to Thee)

Ha'aheo e ka ua i nā pali Proudly swept the rain by the cliffs

Ke nihi a'ela i ka nahele As it glided through the trees

E hahai (uhai) ana paha i ka liko Still following ever the bud

Pua 'āhihi lehua o uka

The 'āhihi lehua<sup>[a]</sup> of the vale

Hui: Chorus:

Aloha 'oe, aloha 'oe Farewell to thee, farewell to thee

E ke onaona noho i ka lipo The charming one who dwells in the shaded bowers

One fond embrace, One fond embrace,

A hoʻi aʻe au Ere I depart

Until we meet again Until we meet again

'O ka hali'a aloha i hiki mai Sweet memories come back to me

Ke hone a'e nei i Bringing fresh remembrances

Ku'u manawa Of the past

'O 'oe nō ku'u ipo aloha Dearest one, yes, you are mine own

A loko e hana nei From you, true love shall never depart

Maopopo ku'u 'ike i ka nani I have seen and watched your loveliness

Nā pua rose o Maunawili The sweet rose of Maunawili

I laila hia'ai nā manu And 'tis there the birds of love dwell

Miki'ala i ka nani o ka liko And sip the honey from your lips

Hui Chorus

Aloha 'Oe was composed by the last queen of Hawai'i, Lydia Kamakaeha Lili'uokalani, when she was still a princess and heir to the throne. The story goes that while on a horseback ride at Maunawili Ranch, she began humming the melody after witnessing a young Hawaiian woman giving her male lover a flower lei at their parting and the tender embrace that followed. By the time she reached her personal residence, her riding party had helped her finish the song. She then transcribed the song while under house arrest almost twenty years later, before the royal family was deposed and Hawai'i was annexed to the United States. The song has since been redefined by Native Hawaiians as a song of melancholic farewell from the Queen to her kingdom.

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### President's Column

### **July 2024 Coastline, from the President**

The voting results are in for both the Fellowship's 2024 Annual Meeting and also the 2024 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly.

Thirty-nine members voted in the Fellowship's meeting and all of the items on the ballot passed. The Budget for 2024-2025, the officers for the Board of Trustees, candidates for the Nominating Committee, the Mission Statement, and the item directing UCF's delegates to the General Assembly to vote in favor of the amended Article II revision of the UUA Bylaws all passed overwhelmingly.

Elected to 2-year terms on the Board of Trustees beginning July 1: Mark Hooper, President; Susan Roberts, Vice President; Amy Jones and Barbara Thomas, Leadership Council Co-Trustees. Elected to 2-year terms on the Nominating Committee are: Jo Ellen Essex and Susan Fetzer. Board members with 1 year remaining on their term are: Miriam Green, Secretary; and Joan Burton, Treasurer. There is currently a vacancy for Co-Secretary. There will also be a vacancy on the Nominating Committee when Tom Cullison moves to Hawaii.

The new Mission Statement states why UCF exists and guides the work of the Board and committees. The Mission of UCF is:

Centered in love, Unitarian Coastal Fellowship takes actions to:

- Live compassionately,
- Grow spiritually,
- Advance justice.

At the 2024 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Associations, delegates voted to pass the revised Article II of the UUA Bylaws as amended. This statement of belief identifies the core values of Unitarian Universalism are Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism and Transformation, centered around Love.

(Former) Board President, Susan Fetzer

### President's Column

The response from members and friends of the congregation after the theft of the Progress and Black Lives Matter Flags, homophobic comments to FaceBook posts, and the verbal threat to one of our members in building has been huge. Thank you for expressing your support and for volunteering to help with security, de-escalation training, and messaging. Plans are being made to increase security and to train more in locking doors and other security measures.

As my term as President of the Board ends and new Board members begin their terms on July 1, I want to express my gratitude to everyone for the support of the Board in its work—especially in the areas of security, updating policies and procedures, and revision of the Mission Statement.

There have been lots of changes in the past five years or so that I've been on the Board of Trustees this time. We are saying goodbye to our interim minister, Rev. Micah Ma, and hello to our new contract minister, Leslie Runnels. The Children and Family Ministry Program is continuing to grow with more children on Sunday mornings and with a Youth Group starting. Many members and community members attended the successful Social Justice film series this year. The Little Free Pantry outside our doors serves those in need of a little food. I counted 23 new members in the past 2 years! The Unitarian Coastal Fellowship will continue to be a beacon to those who are searching for a place to find acceptance, to those looking for ways to make the world more just, and to those on a spiritual journey.



# Children & Family Ministries

### **Children & Family Ministries From Sarah Grenier**

What a wonderful, busy, fun-filled month! We enjoyed celebrating the end of the school year with an amazing party. We sent Rev. Ma off in style! We supported a Pride organization and had fun in the sun. Not to mention game night!

I'm so honored to be a part of this growing community. I hope I can be the thread that stitches us all together in community by working as the program's administrator.

In the RE classroom, we discussed the shapes families can take, Juneteenth history, and how to say goodbye. These topics bring up a lot of emotions about parents, divorce, racism, and grief. I'd encourage you all to ask your kids what they were feeling during these stories, so you can discuss as a family. In July, we will focus more on UU history.

Besides the AC problem, all is going well in the nursery! We need volunteers for a few Sundays in July! Tell me if you want to help out, and sign up in Breeze if you are already on the volunteer list.

We've received a few baskets back already! They look wonderful, and I can't wait to put them to use. If you are still interested in adopting a story to put your crafty skills to use, please let me know soon!

And now, for the July Schedule:

- **Sunday, July 7th, 10:30AM:** Our lesson will discuss "What is a Unitarian Universalist?"
- During coffee hour: Sunday Funday
- Friday, July 12th, 6:30PM: Game Night! Bring your favorite board game or play one of ours. We will celebrate all July birthdays with a cake!
- Sunday, July 14th, 10:30AM: We will discuss the origin of the chalice symbol
- Sunday, July 21st, 10:30AM: Children's RE will talk about the first Unitarians in America
- Sunday, July 28th, 10:30AM: Multigen Service
- \* 10:30AM: Nursery open, no children's religious education

# Children & Family Ministries







# **Upcoming Services**

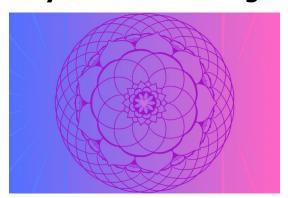
### July 7: Mary & Martha: The Word Versus The Work

During the Commencement season, you may have heard about the Kansas City Chiefs football star whose speech to the graduates of Benedictine College went viral. Part of his speech referred to the preference young women should have for marriage and motherhood over career advancement: "homemaker," he said, "is one of the most important titles of all." Harrison Butker is a Roman Catholic who believes that God has given him a celebrity platform for urging his fellow Catholics to "turn toward Christ" for a successful life. But, to use a phrase that Evangelical Christians like to use, "What Would Jesus Do" when confronted with this admonishment to young women? Luckily, we can refer to a scene in the Gospels where there is such a situation, but maybe Butker hasn't read that part of the Bible for his faith formation. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus expresses a clear preference



for Mary, who sits listening to and learning from him, over her sister Martha, who he rebukes for being busy with domestic chores. Was Jesus ahead of his time in valuing education for women, and - despite the best efforts of the feminist movement - is there still a persistent patriarchal expectation in today's world that a woman's place is in the home?

### July 14: Love Among Us



As people gathered in religious community, we are tasked with co-creating a space to engage the Holy. While defined in a variety of ways, Love has often been described as the most significant value among us as a faithful people. For it is indeed both the pathway to, and is of itself, the most holy thing. But how do we come to know Love among us, and how do we come to fully embody it when things are most challenging?

Bio: The Rev. Byron Tyler Coles (they/he) is native of Roanoke, VA, and the only child of Monica and Terry. Inspired by the good news of Unitarian Universalism, Tyler believes that the best of our collective ministry strives towards conjuring the Beloved Kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. They engage this mandate through multi-racial organizing and movement chaplaincy. Rev. Coles currently serves as member of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Congregational Life Staff Team in the Southern Region where they support faithful leadership across the American South, Caribbean, and northern Mexico.

# **Upcoming Services**

### July 21: Don't Give Up Now

In these times that we live in, it would be easy to lose confidence, hope and trust in people. Yes, we get depressed and discouraged when we see injustice and hatred, but we never give up!!, we keep pressing, we endure This is not a new fight so... "Don't' Give Up Now".

Bio: Rev. Lynn Stiles Godette is Pastor of Alliance Chapel AME Zion Church. A graduate of West



Carteret High School and Durham College, she is pursuing a Bachelors' Degree in Religious Studies with a minor in Business at the University of Mt. Olive. Employed by Carteret Health Care in Morehead City for 40 years, Lynn is Director of Compliance. Among many affiliations, Lynn is Program Committee Chair of the Carteret County Branch of the NAACP.

### **July 28: The Sixth Source**



The Sixth Source in Unitarian
Universalism refers to Earth-centered
traditions, including those of modern
Paganism. While forms of Paganism
from European origins get popularized
there is much wisdom we can learn
from other cultures. Let us use the
wisdom of the ancient Mexica, whom
we call the Aztecs today, to reflect on
times of change."

## 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

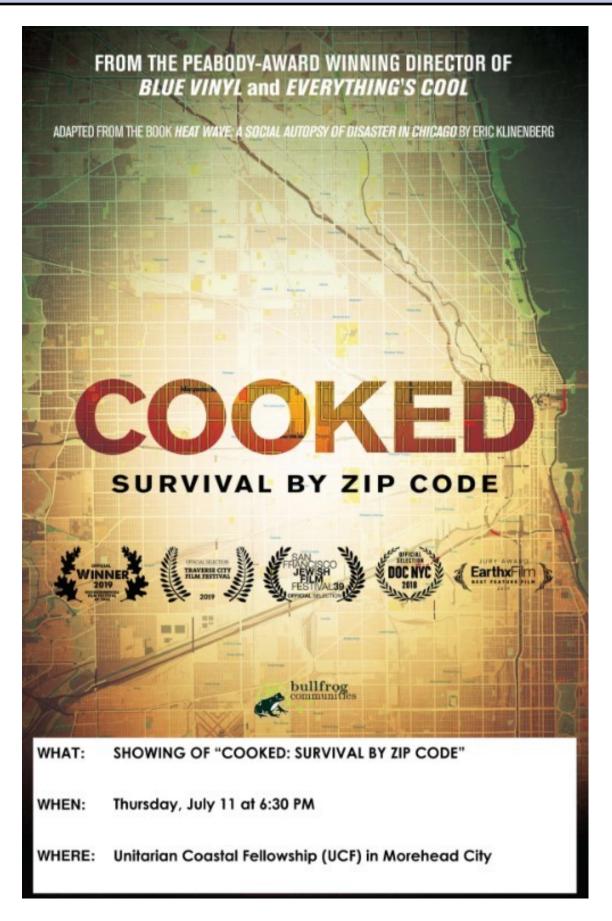
#### **Ministerial Record Overview for Leslie Runnels**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1 DejgEk InLviWxH Ze-m13II3UHJF1/edit

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



### **May Share the Plate**

May's Share the Plate recipient was Carteret Community Theater's Summer Camp program, which is led by Katie Dixon. Katie talked about the program at the service on May 5 th and told us how this program has grown and how she would use the funds to help pay tuition for children who want to do the camp but can't afford it, as well as for props, sets, etc. We raised \$672 for the Summer Camps and Katie's reaction when we told her was "That is so amazing! We are forever grateful! You guys are awesome". Thanks to everyone in the congregation for supporting this Share the Plate work.

### **Share the Plate for July: Citizens for Diversity in Education**

"Growing Our Own" Teachers of Color in Carteret County Public Schools As you may know, in Carteret County Public Schools there are a dwindling number of Teachers and Administrators of color and/or minority ethnicity. These days there is already a teacher shortage happening statewide, but it is especially alarming in the low number of young people of color entering the field of education. We know how important it can be for all children to be able to see teachers and administrators of color, and especially for black or brown children to see someone who looks like them at school. This organization, Citizens for Diversity in Education, was founded more than ten years ago in Carteret County to speak for, support, and mentor teachers and administrators of color at the school and district level. Indeed, one of the founding members of CDE was our own Rev. Sally B. White, beloved long-time minister of this congregation.

As CDE has grown over the years, it has started a Scholarship Fund, with seed money from the estate of Professor Ernst I. Schurer, late husband of Professor Emerita Sue Schurer, and donations from local organizations including UCF. Each year several thousand dollars in scholarships are awarded to graduating students of color who hope to become teachers and leaders of youth programs and will hopefully decide to return to Carteret County to do so. We call this effort "Growing Our Own", as we understand the difficulty of attracting teachers and administrators of color to a gentrifying small town NC county. Someone who has lived here is much more likely to want to return to their roots and give back.

At the local level, CDE monitors School Board meetings, mentors new teachers of color, encourages Teacher Aides to become certified teachers, meets at least quarterly with the district Superintendent, and runs workshops to aid students of color and their parents in planning their high school careers and in applying for colleges and scholarships. CDE is a small, but hardworking force for racial equity and dignity in education here in our own area. We welcome your generous support toward our scholarship and encourage you to join us in this important work.

Sincerely Grateful,

Jo Ellen Essex, Treasurer of Citizens for Diversity in Education

#### **News From Finance**

Thank you. Thank you! for pledging so generously for 24/25. As you know our fiscal year starts July to July so 7/1/24 starts our new year. If you haven't completed your 23/24 pledge you still have a week or so to do that. Please indicate on your check in the memo what your donation is for and update your amounts in online checking. Your pledges and donations are indicated under your profile tab in Breeze. If you need help with Breeze contact Barb Thomas. Your donations are confidential

Thanks again for helping keep UCF running with your much needed financial help.

### **Meatless Monday**

Our Last Meatless Monday before Fall is happening July 29 at 5:30pm. We'll grill some veggies and tofu on the UCF patio to go with your sides and desserts. Fingers crossed for good weather! Wear your Hawaiian shirt! We will have a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall on Sundays.

#### **Design and Décor at UCF**

Are you someone who creates interesting 2—D works of art, but has limited places to share them? Please consider bringing a piece or two to UCF to be displayed on the gallery wall in the Sally B White Center or on the walls of our social hall. They can be simply matted or also framed. The Design and Decor Team will hang the artwork and rotate in new pieces every few months. If you are interested, please contact (If you are interested, contact Susan Roberts at landfall2@mindspring.com or or Karen Baggott at kbaggott47@gmail.com.

Do you enjoy decorating a room? Choosing artwork for the walls? The Design and Decor Team is searching for a few people to join us to oversee and continue this process at UCF. We plan to meet every couple of months. If you are interested, contact Susan Roberts at landfall2@mindspring.com or Karen Baggott at kbaggott47@gmail.com.

# **Upcoming Events**

### **Red Cross Blood Drive at UCF July 23rd**

UCF will be holding a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday**, **July 23rd from 10 AM to 3 PM** in the Social Hall. If you regularly give blood or would like to donate for the first time, please mark your calendar for this event. As always, if we collect 30 units of blood, we will get \$300 to spend on something for our church. So far, we have been collecting between 15 and 27 units of blood per drive. **For this July drive**, **we will receive a \$100 gift certificate for UCF if we collect just 21 units.** If you gave blood in May, you are eligible to give blood again for this drive unless you did a Power Red donation. Here is a link to sign up for an appointment. Please invite your friends and family. There is always a crucial need for blood!



### **Keeping Us Safe at Church**

Various UCF Committees have been working on safety procedures and a Safety Policy that will need our attention. Safety on our campus cannot be just the responsibility of a few volunteers, it must be the responsibility of every single one of us. In uncertain political times, with Hurricane season upon us, with a worldwide pandemic in our memories, it is important to gather our ideas for protecting all – from the very young to our elders – especially as we gather in worship and fellowship.

The Children and Family Ministry committee, headed by Laura Prestwich and with Sarah Grenier as Program Administrator, has come up with a list of areas to keep our young families safe. These will include some fences, learning Heimlich maneuver and CPR/First Aid, how to use fire extinguishers, how to use the Fire Blankets in both buildings, use of the walkie talkies, and locking and unlocking our doors properly. They will be meeting with all parents, volunteers, and interested members to make sure that everyone knows how to handle crucial situations. When our kids are involved, there can be no excuse for not knowing how to do all these important procedures.

The Building and Grounds Committee, headed by Sandra Shelp and Miriam Green, has purchased three Fire Blankets – one for the Pantry, one for the Kitchen, and one for the Spirit Play Room (Room 5) in the Sally B. White Building. In case of a fire, pull the blanket down out of the red bag and cover the fire to extinguish it, or cover yourself to escape past a fire. The committee is also seeking a grant to purchase AEDs (defibrillators) to be placed in each building.

The Membership Committee, under Penny Hooper and Martha Kenworthy, trains all greeters in the proper way to lock our doors, communicate with the Nursery, coordinate fire drills, and to keep a look out for suspicious behavior outside. Most importantly, they are the smiling faces that welcome new people, give them a name tag and information about us.

Last, but certainly not least, the UCF Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Susan Fetzer, and soon Mark Hooper, have been diligent in writing up the UCF Safety Policy for us, starting during the pandemic and health policies, as well as what to do for hurricanes, medical emergencies, fires, or intruders. It is a living document, growing with us and as the need arises.

Now we place the ball in your court! What can YOU do to help any of these groups, and make our new, beautiful campus as safe as possible? What safety ideas do you have to add to any of these? Bring your ideas to the attention of any of these leaders and join the committee meetings to learn more. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Thank you,

Jo Ellen Essex

Member of Children and Family Ministry Committee and the Building and Grounds Committee

# **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

### UCF Book Club July 15 at 4pm. SBW

Join us for the UCF Book Club on Monday July 15 th @ 4pm to discuss the book "Fortunella" by Ron White. Ron is our own UCF member and we will hold the discussion at his home (address to follow) The book can be purchased at UCF in our social hall.

Fortunella is the name of a sailing yacht with an interesting history. She was a tax dodge, pleasure boat, illicit cargo hauler, Or and finally an educational platform for high school and college students in her forty-five year career.



With the author and captain on board we're sure to have a stimulating discussion. All welcome. RSVP Joan @ ldybg223@aol.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. Coloring Meditation, Monday, July 1: 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 to be sent the Zoom link to join us!

# **Upcoming Events**



### Philosophy in the Afternoon July 3

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, July 3; please come and join us! Questions of not a philosophical nature? Contact Holly: hollyer54@yahoo.com

### **VESPERS....Just What Is It?** July 17

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 July 16

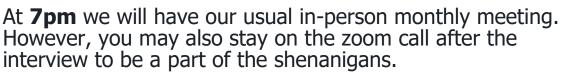


This support group will meet July 16, 2024 (3rd Tuesday of the month) - at 7:00pm in the Sally B. White Building. This mental health wellness support group is for people with significant mental health challenges and/or struggles with substance abuse, to facilitate self-empowerment and recovery.

### **Covenant of Unitarian Universalists Pagans (CUUPS)**

**July 10, 6pm - 8pm** (2nd Wednesday of the Month)

At **6pm** we will be hosting a virtual Interview with author Rick de Yampert about his book Crows and Ravens: Mystery, Myth, and Magic of Sacred Corvids.



For the interview portion or to attend the meeting virtually email: <a href="mailto:coastalcuups@ucfnc.org">coastalcuups@ucfnc.org</a> for the link.



# **July Events**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service	1 <b>5:30pm</b> Meditation	2 10am Mental Health Family Support Group	3 <b>4:30pm</b> PITA	4 10am Leadership Council 4pm Rebecka's Office Hours	5	6
7 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am First Sunday Family Fun Day	8 <b>5:30pm</b> Meditation	9 10am Mental Health Family Support Group 5:45pm Children & Family Ministries Zoom	10 2pm Finance Committee 6pm CUUPS	11 4pm Rebecka's Office Hours 6:30pm SJFS "Cooked"	12 6:30pm Game Night	13
14 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service 12pm UCF Annual Meeting	15 4pm Book Club 5:30pm Meditation	16 10am Mental Health Family Support Group 6pm Mental Health Wellness 6pm NAACP	17 <b>6pm</b> VESPERS with Heather	18 2pm ASE Committee 4pm Rebecka's Office Hours 5pm Board of Trustees	19	20
21 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service	22 4pm Book Club 5:30pm Meditation	23 10am Mental Health Family Support Group 10am Red Cross Blood Drive	24 3:30pm Worship Committee	25 10am Buildings & Grounds 4pm Rebecka's Office Hours	26	27
28 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service	29 5:30pm Meditation	30 10am Mental Health Family Support Group	31			

### The UCF Team

#### **Board of Trustees**

President: Susan Fetzer sgfetzer@gmail.com

Vice President: Mark Hooper mhooper9@ec.rr.com

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Susan Roberts landfall2@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Joan Burton 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

Pianist Meganne Smith meganne.lott@gmail.com

**Children & Family Ministries Committee** 

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