



Our Coastline

Official Newsletter of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Morehead City, NC

February, 2025

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.

Minister's Column

Rev. Leslie Runnels Column for Coastline Feb. 2025

Greetings Beloveds of Unitarian Coastal Fellowship!

Where did January go??? Another great month of worship, faith formation, music and community.

Worship for the month of February will have a theme of Inclusion, and the music team is going to start using an “anthem” each month. We will learn one song a month, hearing it and singing it all four Sundays – this way we don’t have to focus so much on learning the tune or following the music or understanding the words – we will get to a point where we “feel” the song and we can take it deeper into our spiritual practices. The song for this month is #95 There Is More Love Somewhere ... hallelujah, more love!

We also begin our annual pledge drive starting in February – this is the season where we, as a spiritual community, put our gratitude and generosity into practice and we fund our ministries. We will be Riding the Wave of Growth – as we are seeing such a widening of our community as new families seek our liberal faith tradition. It is exciting time to be growing, when many other faith communities are not.

On the radar:

- Thoughtful Gatherings return in the Spring! These are small group meetings that take place in a home, where each person is given time to respond to spiritual questions and prompts. Ministry happens in relationships, and small group ministry like this deepens and expands the shared ministry of a congregation by offering a process for deepening relationships and spiritual journeys.

Minister's Column

In closing, I am offering this poem from Julia Fehrenbacher:

"I am making a home inside myself.

A shelter of kindness where everything is forgiven, everything allowed—a quiet patch of sunlight to stretch out without hurry, where all that has been banished and buried is welcomed, spoken, listened to—released.

A fiercely friendly place I can claim as my very own.

I am throwing arms open to the whole of myself—especially the fearful, fault-finding, falling apart, unfinished parts, knowing every seed and weed, every drop of rain, has made the soil richer.

I will light a candle, pour a hot cup of tea, gather around the warmth of my own blazing fire. I will howl if I want to, knowing this flame can burn through any perceived problem, any prescribed perfectionism, any lying limitation, every heavy thing.

I am making a home inside myself
where grace blooms in grand and glorious
abundance, a shelter of kindness that grows
all the truest things."

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President's Column

February 2024 Coastline, from the President

Greetings,

Your Board of Trustees held a meeting in December to assess our ministry in the first half of the church year. We thought about all the things that went well from welcoming Rev. Leslie as our contract minister to adding new members and enjoying the energy of our children. We talked about developing new Leadership and adding volunteers for all the church tasks. We also looked forward for new ideas or programs. We are very pleased with where we are. In the second half of the church year, we have some big decisions to make. First, Rev. Leslie was hired under a one-year contract. The Search team did a wonderful job finding a great candidate and securing Rev. Leslie for this position. When a church and a Minister feels like they are a great fit, the congregation will then Call the Minister to be their Called Minister. This means a long-term relationship would continue. There would be a wonderful Installation Ceremony to cement this relationship. Prior to the Call there is a congregation wide process to assess our Ministry together. This is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to help our shape a future moving ahead. This process takes time. We will have a coffee with the Board after service on Sunday, February 16, 2025. Join us after the service and we can talk about the next steps in our shared Ministry with Rev. Leslie. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and visions for our shared future.

Thanks, Mark Hooper, President of the UCF Board of Trustees.

See you in church.

Children & Family Ministries

Children & Family Ministries From Sarah Grenier

January is like a breath of fresh air where we set our intentions down on paper for the year and reflect on the passing year. We all had fun making our impromptu vision boards including the kids! This year, I'll be taking UU religious education classes to be better prepared for our growing program, and the RE committee discussed the needs of our congregation to make the fall program bigger and better! We are hoping to hold a summer camp, get trained in OWL, and start a middle school class in the fall. I know what the kids want—more time to play! The warmth of community and play certainly kept us cozy in this wintry wonderland. May that warmth fill our hearts with love as we head into February. Next month, we will have the kids choose a charity that they will collect donations for all month long while they throw out beads! This is a way for our kids to have some mardi gras fun and spread the love in our community. We will also focus our attention on Black History month, learning about different black people in history.

Sunday, February 2nd, 10:30AM: Ruby Bridges Story

- **During coffee hour:** Sunday Funday

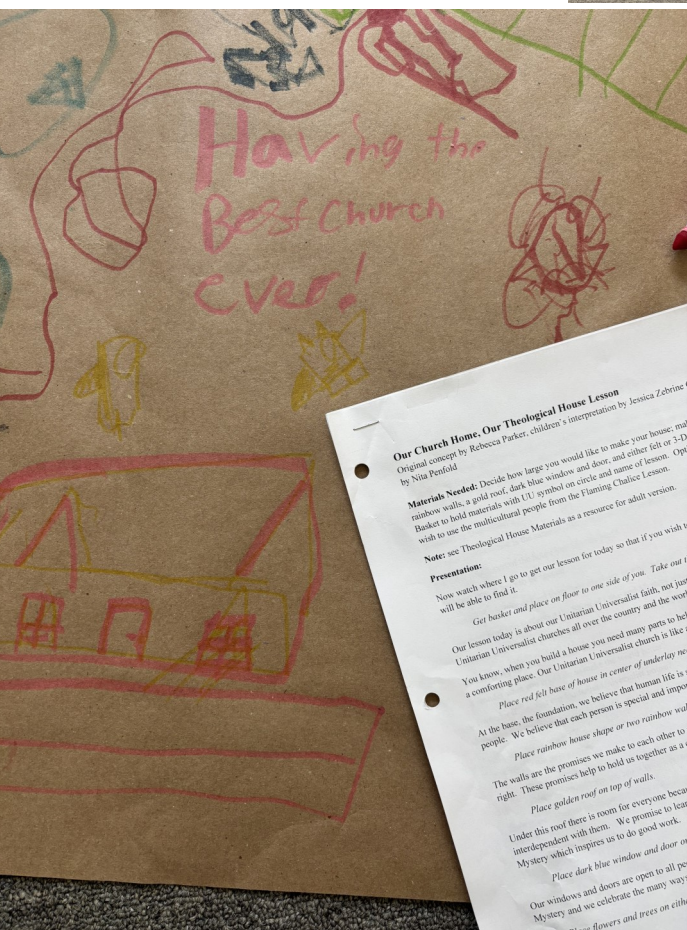
Sunday, February 9th, 10:30AM: Loving Day Story

Sunday, February 16th, 10:30AM: Multigen Service

- **10:15AM:** Nursery open, no children's religious education

Sunday, February 23rd, 10:30AM: Black History Month Bingo

Children & Family Ministries



Children & Family Ministries

YOU ARE INVITED TO

Valentine's
SUNDAY
FUNDAY

FEBRUARY 2nd
AFTER SERVICE

JOIN US AS WE MAKE
VALENTINE'S CARDS FOR OUR
NEIGHBORS AT LOCAL
RETIREMENT HOMES

BRING A SNACK TO SHARE

Children & Family Ministries



UCF Children's RE presents

MARDI GRAS KREWE FOR CHANGE

Bring us your change for
a good cause!

All February long!



Upcoming Services

February 2: Sermon on the (A)Mount

What amount of Love is required when our most radical, controversial, countercultural message is our affirmation that each of us, every single, individual one of us is a part of an interdependent web of all existence.



February 9: A Thousand Ways to Kneel and Kiss The Ground

We will explore what it means to pray through the personal narratives or people of different faiths.

February 16: Love and the Gift of Inclusion

Being a Welcoming Congregation brings us all closer to the dream of Beloved Community - where are we going?



February 23: Hospitality, Radical Inclusion

Preemptive Radical Inclusion is not an outcome, but is a doorway to justice. By taking actions in advance which center the needs of those marginalized, you move toward the beloved community.

Social Justice News

SHARE THE PLATE

December's Share the Plate collection went to The Bridge Down East -- a non-profit organization that seeks to have a positive impact on the Down East Community in Carteret County NC by offering a variety of programs throughout the year. As a youth center, they promote a community approach to enrichment, offering support, hope and inspiration for our youth as well as families in the community. We raised \$869.72 for this organization.

For the month of February, we will be sharing the plate with the Disaster Relief Fund of Crooked Media, a media organization located in Los Angeles which has vetted charities that are working to help those that have lost some or all of their possessions and housing, as well as those helping to fight the fires. They have selected charities to be sure that donations have the highest impact. Currently donations are being split between the following charities:

- Latino Community Foundation
- Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
- Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation
- United Way of Greater Los Angeles
- California Community Foundation Wildfire Relief Fund
- Inclusive Action for the City

The UCF Social Justice Committee usually selects local organizations for receive our Share the Plate donations but in this case, we thought the numbers of people affected and the devastation we have seen on our TV screens warranted breaking that tradition.



Social Justice News

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

On January 20th , members and friends of UCF once again prepared the lunch for the attendees of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. There was a record high attendance at this year's event and our team worked hard to prepare the lunch plates and get them on carts to be delivered to the guests. Thanks to the team for their hard work. This was the 32nd year of this event and the ceremonies at the Celebration were excellent, with Dr. Richmond L. Hill giving an inspiring and interesting keynote address.



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 February 17 at 4pm. SBW

The UCF Book Club will be meeting on Monday Feb. 17 @ 4PM in the Sally B. White Center. We will be discussing "The Mighty Red" by Louise Erdich. In this novel, a high school jock falls in love with and proposes to the Ojibwe daughter of a woman who works for his family's sugar farm. This book deals with a question of inheritance and identity, mapping the impacts of past injustices on present – day inequalities.

Please join us to talk about this novel by award winning novelist Louise Erdich, who is also Ojibwe. Contact Joan Burton LDYBG223@AOL.COM for more information.

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.

Email Susan Roberts at landfall2@mindspring.com for more information or to be sent the Zoom link to join us!

Upcoming Events

February Choir Practice Schedule

February 2 : Choir Practice

February 9 : Choir Practice

February 16 : Choir Practice

February 23 : No Choir Practice

A graphic titled "CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE" enclosed in a decorative border of musical notes and staves. The text inside the border lists the following schedule:

CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE

FEB. 02 – 9AM CHOIR PRACTICE
FEB. 09 – 9 AM CHOIR PRACTICE
FEB. 16 – 9 AM CHOIR PRACTICE
FEB. 23 – 9 AM CHOIR PRACTICE

Mental Health Wellness Support Group February 18



This support group will meet February 18, 2024 (3rd Tuesday of the month) - at 6:00pm 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.

Upcoming Events



OWL Facilitator Training March 2025

OWL (Our Whole Lives) helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach ([PDF](#)), Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

UCF hopes to train facilitators in March at the Southern Region training in Memphis March 26, 27 and 28. Please speak to Rev Leslie or Sarah Grenier if you are interested in becoming a facilitator for OWL classes.



February Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am First Sunday Family Fun Day	3 5:30pm Meditation	4 10am Mental Health Family Support Group	5	6 10am Leadership Council 6pm RE Meeting	7 9am LC Tending Cong Life Module	8
9 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service	10 5:30pm Meditation	11 10am Mental Health Family Support Group	12 2pm Finance Committee 6pm CUUPS	13 5pm Board of Trustees 6:30pm Worship Team	14 5:30pm Parent's Night Out	15
16 9am Choir Practice 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Coffee with the Board	17 4pm Book Club 5:30pm Meditation	18 10am Mental Health Family Support Group 6pm Mental Health Wellness Group 6pm NAACP Meeting	19	20 5pm Board of Trustees 6:30pm Worship Team	21	22
23 10:15am Nursery 10:30am Worship Service	24 5:30pm Meditation	25 10am Mental Health Family Support Group	26	27	28	

The UCF Team

Board of Trustees

President: Mark Hooper mhooper9@ec.rr.com

Vice President: Susan Roberts landfall2@mindspring.com

Secretaries: Miriam Green mwgreen15@gmail.com
Lauren Donnachie lsdonnachie1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joan Burton ucfwelcomenc@gmail.com

Leadership Trustee: Barbara Thomas bsthomas2@gmail.com

Amy Jones amjones0912@gmail.com

Minister Leslie Runnels lrunnels@ucfnc.org

Choir Director Karen Baggott kbaggott47@gmail.com

Pianist Meganne Smith meganne.lott@gmail.com

Children & Family Ministries Committee

Sarah Grenier sgrenier@ucfnc.org

Laura Prestwich laura.prestwich@gmail.com

Office Assistant Samantha Simmons samantha@ucfnc.org

Facilities Sandra Shelp shelpsk@yahoo.com

Worship Laura Prestwich laura.prestwich@gmail.com

Finance Jo Ellen Essex jolnsx@yahoo.com

Membership Penny Hooper pjhooper@ec.rr.com and

Martha Kenworthy martha.kenworthy@gmail.com

Social Justice Harriet Altman harrietalman@icloud.com

Barb Thomas bsthomas2@gmail.com

Green Sanctuary Penny Hooper pjhooper@ec.rr.com

Harriet Altman harrietalman@icloud.com

Committee on Ministry Penny Hooper pjhooper@ec.rr.com

Adult Spiritual Enrichment Susan Roberts landfall2@mindspring.com



Contact Us!

252.240.2283

UNITARIAN COASTAL FELLOWSHIP P. O. Box 425 Morehead City, NC 28557