



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

November 22, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **Weekly Contact**

The print edition of the Weekly Contact will soon be phased out, in keeping with our Green Sanctuary Program. Please make sure the office knows your preferred address for the Friday email. Beginning December 1, a limited number of copies will be available at the Welcome Table for visitors.

## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS**

What can we do with our feelings about the attacks in Paris? Sunday at 7:00 PM our choir will be going to the interfaith service at the First Presbyterian Church 2050 Oak Street, Sarasota. There will be people from the Islamic, Christian, Jewish and Unitarian Universalist traditions worshipping together. Join us.

We can call neither Unitarian nor Universalist "peace" churches. Over the years many Unitarian Universalists have served in the military. Two, William Perry and William Cohen, have served as Secretaries of Defense.

I believe in self-defense. I believe that human societies need police and sometimes using violence is necessary for police. I believe that some people are dangerous to others and we need to keep them in a humane, but secure, prison. However, I do not see war as a solution to the attacks in France. In this sense I am a pacifist.

Starting with Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in August 1990, our nation and much of Europe have engaged in twenty-five years of overreaction. We attack, they attack, we attack and so on. Our current President is showing some restraint. For this, I am thankful. I would go much further. I would bring our entire military force home from the Middle East. I would stop selling arms to the Middle East. I would use our resources to help the refugees who are trying to escape the fighting.

I know that the people who have the power to decide will not hear nor follow my advice. Nevertheless, as I said in 1990, and in 2002, and again today, more war will fix nothing. It is not only unholy, but a political blunder.

## **SATURDAY EVENTS, NOVEMBER 21**

\* **Interweave Potluck this Saturday, November 21**, at 11 am. For more information, contact hostess Wilda at [WQMeier@aol.com](mailto:WQMeier@aol.com) or 924-0706.

**\* Friday Movie moved to Saturday**

The second in our series of outstanding movies will be shown on **Saturday, November 21**, at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. ***The King of Masks*** is about an elderly Chinese street performer who has no family but wants to pass on his skills. \$5 donation requested.

**SUNDAY EVENTS, NOVEMBER 22**

***PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. Please have your contributions for the Weekly Contact in the office by noon on Monday, November 23.***

**Sermon at both Sarasota (10:30 a.m.) and Lakewood Ranch (9:00 a.m.)**

**"What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on Prayer?" by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Many Unitarian Universalists are uncomfortable with prayer. We're more at home with the word meditation, particularly the silent part. As we approach Thanksgiving, is there a way to understand prayer that may make the word meaningful to us?

**UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota 34232**

**\* 10:30 a.m. Music:** Joshua Horne, French Horn; Don Bryn, Piano

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Joshua Horne joined the Sarasota Orchestra in 2014 as Co-Principal Horn and is also a member of the Sarasota Wind Quintet. He has worked with the Sarasota Opera, Sarasota Ballet, Houston Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, San Antonio Symphony and New World Symphony. Joshua received his undergraduate degree from The University of Texas in 2012. He received a Master of Music degree in Horn Performance from the Rice University Shepherd School of Music in 2014.

**\* 10:30 a.m. Religious Education:** Loving care for infants and toddlers and classes for older children and Youth Group are available.

**\* 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Low-Literacy: Why Solutions Are Important."** Nearly 1 in 5 local adults have debilitating low-literacy levels. It impacts themselves, their families, and, indeed, all of us. Since 1978, the Literacy Council of Sarasota (LCS) has been focused on Basic Adult Education, GED, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and digital literacy. LCS depends on the almost 200 local ProLiteracy-certified tutors and instructors that they have trained, and who have helped over 1,500 local adults in the last 5 years reach their goals. Presenter, Tom Melville, Executive Director, LCS; Moderator, Linda Jones.

**LAKEWOOD RANCH, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton, 34202**

**\* 9:00 a.m. Music:** Mindy Simmons, guitar and vocals, Claudia Holmes, recorder

**\* We have volunteers on hand to make sure your children are supervised and happy while you enjoy the service.**

**\* 10:00 a.m. We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship. Order off the menu. The breakfast special is only \$2.99.**

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**From the President's Corner** - UUUCS is full swing. Our snowbirds are arriving, our membership is growing and our Sunday attendance is up at both our Sanctuary and at the satellite in Lakewood Ranch. Welcome all.

With members and friends totaling over 500 we are a bustling community, I am seeing many faces that I don't recognize. Please, all of you, say hello to others. It is important that we reach out and remain the friendly community that has been attractive to all of us.

As I said above, attendance is up and we want to make room for all. Please consider the 9:00 service (we will go to two services beginning Sunday, December 6th). The second service will start at 11:00 and, of course, there is the Lakewood Ranch alternative where services will move from 9:00 to 10:00 on November 29th.

Our capable head usher Bill Geller, assisted by Gail Colella, has been placing ushers at the front of the church to assist you in being seated and we would love for you to move forward. Likewise remember that Cardinal Mooney has given us permission to use their parking lot for excess capacity.

There will be a lot going on over the coming winter season and we want you to be part of all of it. There is always a need for volunteers and we will find a place for you that meets your interest. The UUUCS board and staff are here for you. Please come and be with us as often as you can.

Bill Payton  
President, Board of Trustees

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

**\* Guest at Your Table, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**

**Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).** Throughout the world, the UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression

**This year, Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people.** As the UUSC celebrates its 75th anniversary, it reflects back to its origins: Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp helping European refugees escape prosecution during World War II. Today, the UUSC is working with Syrian refugees in Croatia and Hungary, reuniting families, and providing much needed aid.

You will find a membership envelope in today's order of service. We encourage you to join or renew your UUSC membership. Gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock.

The traditional Guest at Your Table boxes are available at the Social Justice table. The boxes feature people the UUSC has worked with in the past. These people are your "guests," and you are asked to share your blessing with them each meal by putting your spare change in the box. You can learn about them by reading the accompanying Stories of Hope booklets.

Supporting the UUSC is a way for all of us to stand in solidarity with those around the world that have not achieved social or economic justice. Our congregation can be proud that we have been recognized by the UUSC for our past generous support. You may place your membership envelope in the collection basket, drop it off at the Social Justice table or mail it directly to the UUSC. Boxes will be collected after the New Year. Information on the work of the UUSC is available at the Social Justice table.

**\* Come to our UU Artists Market in the Lexow Wing on November 22 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm.** We will have UU artists selling fused glass items, jewelry including contemporary pearl jewelry, paintings including pet portraits and pottery. We will have snacks provided by the artists.

**\* On Sunday, November 22** at 7:00 p.m. there will be an **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** held at the First Presbyterian Church on 2050 Oak Street in Sarasota. Our church choir will be joining the chorales of other churches of our community for a gathering "to celebrate our unity as people of faith." Connect with us as we promote our third UU principle: "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

**\* Last Day to register for Thanksgiving with your Church Family!**

**Sunday, November 22 is the last day to reserve your seat at Thanksgiving Day dinner at church.** \$10 per person, \$8 age 12-under. Visit the Thanksgiving table after Sunday service or contact Suzie Brucklacher at [susan.tbliss@gmail.com](mailto:susan.tbliss@gmail.com). Turkey, stuffing and gravy provided. Veg entrees too. Bring a family favorite side dish or dessert to share. Appetizers, wine and beverages start at 1 p.m., dinner at 2 p.m.

**\* See Sarasota and More - December 20**  
**"A Christmas Carol" - Venice Theatre**

The holiday offering for See Sarasota and More this year is the 2:00 matinee on **Sunday, December 20** of the Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol" at the Venice Theatre. Come to our table in the courtyard before or after the Sunday services on **November 22** to sign up. We have reserved 26 tickets. \$23 covers the ticket price, transportation and lunch. Please pay when you sign up; checks should be made out to Lois Lee. We will have a Pizza or Veggie Wrap lunch immediately after the 11:00 service and plan to leave in carpools at 1:00.

\* **Please consider parking in the Cardinal Mooney High School lot** which provides extra parking space to us during the season, for your convenience. Drive into the main Cardinal Mooney entrance, then to the far southwest corner of their parking lot, closest to the church, and follow the signs to the church.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

\* **Our Thankful Tree** looks beautiful in the courtyard. Thank you to everyone who participated in our first social justice project. We raised \$253 for the UUSC's humanitarian work aiding Syrian refugees. A special thank you to the Artisan group for creating our tree.

\* **Family Camp Out** - Join us this **Saturday, November 21st** at 5pm for a night under the stars. Come pitch a tent or just join us for the campfire. This is potluck, so bring a dish to share and food to grill over the fire pit. Dessert provided.

\* **Save the Dates** - Mark your calendars, our holiday fun is here!

**Tree Trimming Party - Saturday, December 5th, 6-8:30 pm**

Get in the holiday spirit with our decorating extravaganza! Pot Luck dinner to share. Everyone invited.

**Parent Night Out - Saturday, December 19th, 6-9:30pm**

Drop the children off and have an evening to yourself. We'll be showing a holiday movie and sipping hot chocolate.

**Christmas Eve Family Service - Thursday, December 24th, 5:30pm**

A special service for our RE Families with carols and readings. Cookies and punch following service.

## **FLEA MARKET**

\* **To all the many volunteers and members who donated, sorted, staged, priced, counted cash, prepared food, carried heavy books, repaired delicate jewelry, set-up, cleaned up and purchased our wonderful Flea Market treasures . . . THANK YOU!**

We worked together to support our church and its many socially conscious activities.

We needed every act of service, every kind word and every helping hand. We are a better community of UUs because of it! John Yoder

## **FREETHINKERS**

\* **Freethinkers is seeking volunteers** to serve on the committee and help with monthly meetings. Our purpose is to provide speakers who will expand our knowledge and understanding of our society and ourselves; to think about social issues related to religion, ethics, morality or social justice.

Currently, there are only three members working on the series: Jim Wolfson, Steve and Carole Martin, and we need your help and your input.

If you are interested in helping to make this a reality for 2016, or if you have a recommendation for a speaker to consider, please contact Carole Martin at [steveandcaroleusa@gmail.com](mailto:steveandcaroleusa@gmail.com) or call 954-415-7679.

## CARING

\* **Our best wishes to Roy Ingham, Klaus Obermeit and Betty Thorner who are on our healing list this week.**

\* **Does the Minister have your Memorial Form on file?** Has your emergency contact information changed since you filled out the form? Update and submit your form for a memorial service and have peace of mind knowing you've made choices easier for your loved ones. The form can be found online at [www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org) or in the church office.

\* **The Caring Committee** offers short term help with rides, meals and companionship. If you are ill or having surgery and would like us to be in touch, please contact Dee Widder at 377-9028 or [DeanaWidder@gmail.com](mailto:DeanaWidder@gmail.com).

\* **Would you like to honor a friend** who passed away or someone who made your day a little brighter or celebrate a birthday, anniversary or your grandchild's accomplishment? Make a Tribute donation today and send your check, with a Tribute form, to the office. Forms are available in the office and online. The Tribute will be acknowledged in the Contact.

## OUR COMMUNITY

\* **Start your day with a feminist mug of coffee!** Honoring proud mothers and families everywhere, Proud Mama coffee lifts up women farmers who are becoming leaders and sending their children to school. Feel the pride

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group will meet at LeAnh's Vietnamese Restaurant on Friday, December 4, at 1:00 pm.** The restaurant is located at 2901 N. Tamiami Trail. Non-vegetarians are welcome. For further information, or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at [jeanw972@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanw972@yahoo.com) or via phone: 929-3845.

\* **UU Artists! Are you ready for the UUCS Members Art Show?** The Arts Council will be receiving UUCS members' work on **Friday, December 4th** from 9 to 11:30 AM. Each member is invited to submit up to two of their own artworks to be exhibited in the Lexow Wing Gallery through the month of December. It is an all-media show, including sculpture, pottery, fabric art and more. So don't be shy! Bring us your work on December 4th, and mark your calendar for the opening reception on **Sunday, December 6th**. Contact Cathy Cyrus at [cyr603@yahoo.com](mailto:cyr603@yahoo.com) with any questions.

\* **"Theism, as a way of defining God, is dead."** So said Bishop John Shelby Spong before retiring as Episcopal Bishop of Newark in 2000.

Those were the opening words of the first of twelve theses that Bishop Spong drew from his 1998 book, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*.

The rest of his first thesis was "God can no longer be understood with credibility as a Being, supernatural in power, dwelling above the sky and prepared to invade human history periodically to enforce the divine will. So, most theological God-talk today is meaningless unless we find a new way to speak of God."

Curious about his meaning and the reactions? Ask him! Bishop Spong will speak in our sanctuary on February 12 and 13. See the UUCS website <http://www.uucsarasota.com/spong.html> for details, fee, and registration info.

## **OUR COMMITMENTS - SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**The UUCS Social Justice Committee addresses issues of homelessness and hunger, economic justice, human rights and the health of our planet. To learn more, attend our noon meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, join the mailing list at [justice@uucsarasota.org](mailto:justice@uucsarasota.org) or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.**

\* **Volunteer for Annual AIDS Walk.** On December 6th starting at 8 a.m. at J D Hamel Park. Volunteers are needed to assist with registration and other functions. Call Hank Hueber at 587-1509.

\* **Sunday Food Favorites.** Not sure what to donate from your cupboard on Sundays? Soup, spaghetti, sauce, canned vegetables and toilet paper are always needed at Bethesda House. Look for the collection bin on the Sanctuary walkway.

\* **Tell Vern Buchanan What You Think.** Call 202-225-5015 and tell Buchanan's staff person that you are a constituent who supports HR3411, a resolution to close the background check loophole for gun sales at gun shows. A quick phone call is more effective than an email or a petition signature. Every call is counted, so your call counts.

\* **Used Bicycles for Turning Points.** El Parent will pick up your used bicycle and deliver it to Turning Points, the one-stop homelessness prevention center in Manatee County. Worn bikes with usable parts are helpful too. Call El at 813-507-8735, [elparentjckp@gmail.com](mailto:elparentjckp@gmail.com).

\* **Sign the Solar Energy and Voting Rights Petitions.** These petitions for state constitutional amendments - to expand solar energy development and to restore voting rights to former felons - are available at the Social Justice table. With enough petition signatures before February, these amendments will appear on the November 2016 ballot.

\* **Backpack Volunteers.** Help pack food bags for low income students in Sarasota. For more information about our congregation's largest hunger project or to schedule your time, look for Don or Sara on Sunday or email [dsslate@comcast.net](mailto:dsslate@comcast.net).

**Also at our courtyard table today:** Organic, Fair Trade coffees, teas, chocolate bars, cocoa, olive oil; collection box for school points labels from food boxes; collection jug for non-recyclable plastic caps to benefit a local school.

**COMING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

**UUCS SARASOTA**

**\* 10:30 a.m. "We Don't All Have to be Gryffindor," sermon by Tracie Barrett-Welser**

Unitarian Universalists are known for our commitment to social justice. But what if you're not a "get out on the front lines" kind of person? Join Tracie Barrett-Welser as she compares the types of people we need for successful movements to the four houses in *Harry Potter*. The best movements have balance, and let's learn how to use everyone's gifts to work effectively for justice.

Tracie Barrett-Welser lives in Winter Haven with her husband and teenage stepson. She has officially been a Unitarian Universalist for five years, but decided she's held the same beliefs for most of her life. She considers herself a UU evangelist, wanting to spread the "good news" of our liberal and welcoming faith. She is in her second year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and is the ministerial intern at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County.

**\* 10:30 a.m. Music:** Choir; Don Bryn, Piano

**\* 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Recent Attacks on Planned Parenthood: Are They Politically Motivated?"** A discussion of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida's recent merger, the organization's positive impact throughout the community, and the latest attacks (including the issue of fetal tissue research) and what Floridians can do to help. Presenter, Barbara Zdravecky, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida; Moderator, Fredric Sirasky.

**Lakewood Ranch**

**\* 10:00 a.m. "Reflections of a UU in Training," sermon by Bill Payton**

Bill is currently President of the Board of Trustees of our church. He has been a member since 2011. Bill grew up in Akron, Ohio, served four years in the Marine Corps and returned home to attend the University of Akron where he graduated with a degree in Banking and Finance. He spent forty years in the insurance industry in a career that took him to seven different cities and states. He retired from the University of Missouri in January of 2007 where he served as the Director of Risk & Insurance Management. While in that capacity he served two terms as President of the University Risk Management and Insurance Association and was honored in 2006 as Distinguished Risk Manager of the Year.

**\* 10:00 a.m. Music: Mindy Simmons, guitar and vocals**