



WEEKLY CONTACT

February 28, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS

Sunday morning is the start of our Stewardship Campaign, BUT NONE OF US (INCLUDING ME) WANTS TO HEAR A SERMON ABOUT HOW THE CHURCH NEEDS MONEY.

Instead, I want to talk about the experience of the Baby Boom generation as we move into retirement. According to one researcher, "Inside every 55 to 64 year-old, there's an 80-year-old waiting to get out." Polling shows that boomers value the same amenities that older retirees do. "They all wanted the same things. The only difference we found was that proximity to churches was more important to the 65-plus folks, and convenience stores were more important to the boomers." Of course, after visiting the convenience store, Boomers do come to church. This winter we are getting 15 new members each month! See you on Sunday.

SUNDAY EVENTS, FEBRUARY 28

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "Welcome to Sarasota, Fellow Baby Boomers," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

People born between the years 1946 and 1964, ranging in age between 51 and 70 are retiring. Some are retiring to Sarasota. Some are joining our church! This sermon, by our Baby Boomer minister, is a way of saying welcome.

*** Music: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Joe Martinez, trumpet; Don Bryn, piano**

Our guest musician this Sunday is trumpeter Joe Martinez who is one of Sarasota's most distinguished trumpet players. His career includes 18 years with Sarasota Orchestra, more than 20 years with the Sarasota Concert Band and principal trumpet with the Venice Symphony. He continues to perform with the Suncoast Brass Quintet and Venice Brass Quintet.

*** 10:05 Forum: Florida's Fragile Environment: Is Amendment 1 Being Ignored?**

In 2014, Florida voters (including 80% in Sarasota County) approved Amendment I: The Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative, and yet the present administration seeks to degrade and ignore it. The measure was designed to dedicate 33 percent of net revenue from the existing excise tax on documents to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, which was developed to acquire and improve conservation easements, wildlife management areas, wetlands, forests, fish and wildlife habitats, beaches and shores, recreational trails and parks, urban open space,

rural landscapes, working farms and ranches, historical and geological sites, lands protecting water and drinking water resources and lands in the Everglades Agricultural Areas and the Everglades Protection Area. Presenter, Edward James III.

Edward James III is a 5th generation Floridian, a graduate of Pineview and the University of Chicago. After working on President Obama's 2012 campaign, and a stint at Google, he became Regional Field Director of Gwen Graham's successful 2014 campaign for the U.S. House. At age 26 he aspires to the Florida House of Representatives, District 72, in which the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota is located.

*** 11 a.m. Religious Education (RE):**

Nursery: Loving care for infants and toddlers is available during the 9 a.m. Service, Forum & 11 a.m. Service.

Child Care for children 10 and under is available during the 9 a.m. Service & Forum.

Classes are offered during the 11 a.m. service for children and youth.

Lakewood Ranch, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton 34202

***10:00 a.m. Sermon by Katie Romano Griffin, Ministerial Intern serving in Ft. Myers**

This is a theologically diverse sermon that examines the many ways in which Hope can be explored and experienced.

*** Music: UU Caring Voices, Ed Kinder, keyboard**

*** 10:00 a.m. Nursery and Childcare provided**

*** 11:00 a.m. Food and Fellowship**

We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship. Order off the menu.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

*** Food Donations** - Our children and youth are collecting non-perishable food items for All Faiths Food Bank from **Sunday, February 28th through Sunday, March 6th**. A collection barrel will be placed outside the Sanctuary for your donations. Suggested items are canned tuna, chicken, soup or beans; peanut butter; granola bars; pasta and cereal. Please be generous.

*** RE Chapel, Sunday, February 28th** - Children and youth will meet together for a RE Chapel on the topic of hunger in our community. This is part of our "Helping Hands & Loving Hearts" social justice program.

*** Join us on March 12th from 9:30 to 11:30 for a Volunteer Day at All Faiths Food Bank.** All children (age 4 & older), youth & adults are invited to join us as we help sort and pack food for delivery to our community food pantries. We will meet at All Faiths Food Bank, 8171 Blaikie Ct, Sarasota. Need transportation? Have a

question? Contact DRE, Susan Cook-Hallock, at dre@uusarasota.org or call 371-4974, ext. 7 for more information. Please note, closed-toed shoes are required.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **Sunday's Share-the-Plate Offering** will fund Transition House for the coming year. Transition House is our church's commitment to help one family at a time transition out of homelessness. We partner with the Sarasota Housing Authority which identifies a working family that needs safe, affordable housing and is ready and able to contribute financially. We refurbish the home for each new family and provide a rent subsidy recommended by SHA based on family income.

Thanks to generous gifts to last February's share-the-plate offering, the Social Justice committee was able to purchase a washer and dryer for the home to the delight of the current family of five.

We started the project in 2014 and are helping our second family. Dad and Mom are both working hard to stabilize their household. The Social Justice Committee looks forward to helping them - and the next family - with your support.

* **Stewardship Drive Kick-Off**

We will kick off the annual Stewardship Drive on Sunday, February 28. Pledge cards for the church fiscal year 2016-17 will be made available in the Order of Service. Please think about your pledge amount, so you will be prepared to fill out your pledge card and sign it and drop it the box in the courtyard after the church service. If your current pledge is about 1% of your income, try to increase it to 2%. If you are already pledging 2% of your income, try to get closer to 3%, and so on. If you pledge 5% of your income, or more, like our Minister, we thank you!

A light luncheon will be provided for all on February 28, after the 11:00 a.m. service, to encourage members and friends to stick around, socialize at lunch and perhaps even take the time to fill out, sign and turn in your pledge cards. Those who turn in their pledge cards on that date will be eligible for a few prizes to be awarded to those whose cards are drawn from the box on that date only. We are encouraging early pledges of support so we can end the Stewardship Drive by **March 20**, when we will be voting on a budget for the coming Fiscal Year at our annual meeting.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Yours in the spirit of a loving community,

Dean Reger

Chair, Stewardship Committee

* **Open Zen meditation takes place every Sunday night**

One of the few Zen meditation groups in Southwest Florida meets here every Sunday night at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson Room. Each session is marked by a reading from a famous Zen or Buddhist master and then a 25-minute meditation.

The group favors the Soto Zen tradition and this Sunday night will focus on teachings by the legendary Soto Zen master Shunryu Suzuki on breathing techniques and visualization.

Donations are welcome for the sessions, which are now in their 3rd year here and no special equipment is required. You may come and go as you please. If you are curious about Zen or looking to find a special peace in your life, you're invited to sit in on this Sunday's meditation.

CARING

* **FOUND - white sweaters, white jackets, a Secret Service Agent cap . . .** are any of these items yours? Look in the Found box in the Lexow Wing for missing articles. If not claimed within 30 days, the goods are donated to Goodwill.

* **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 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.

* **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*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Religious Literacy Dialog**

Reimagining God: The Faith Journey of a Modern Heretic, a book by Lloyd Geering, will be the theme of our weekly Wednesday dialogs from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the West Wing. We also discuss contributions by individuals as well as articles from Westar Institute's Fourth R Magazine (westarinstitute.org). If you can't attend, you can participate by signing up for our email list. You can read the thoughts of others and share your own ideas if you so desire. No advanced reading is required. To sign up for the email list, or for additional information contact David Ryan at d2mryan@verizon.net or 365-4027.

* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group** will meet at *Flavors of India* on Friday, **March 4**, at 1:00 p.m. The restaurant is located at 7119 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Non-vegetarians are welcome. However, we ask that everyone have a "vegetarian" lunch. Reservations are necessary so that an exact count can be given to the restaurant on Thursday, **March 3**. For further information, or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at jeanw972@yahoo.com or via phone: 929-3845.

* **FreeThinkers presents: Daughters of Susan B: A History and Legacy of Women's Suffrage, Friday March 4 at 10 a.m. in the UUCS Sanctuary.** Not your stuffy history class, this presentation looks at the suffrage and women's equality movement through the eyes of Susan B. Anthony and how she might look upon the status of gender equality as it stands today.

* **MARK THESE DATES, FreeThinkers Series - Fridays at 10 a.m.:**

March 4 Daughters of Susan B Anthony, Gayle Williams

March 18 She-Roes of Africa, Debi Frock

April 1 Compassion & Choices, Winnie Downes

May 6 Pending

June 3 Pending

Speakers and/or Topics Subject to Change

* **"Discovering UUCS" - A Newcomer Orientation**

Saturday, March 5, 2016; 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

UUCS - Lexow Wing

If you are considering membership, this workshop is for you. Reverend Fritts will discuss our history and explore with you what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of this church. Some of our church leaders will join us for lunch to talk about the many activities here and to get acquainted with you. The Membership Committee provides lunch. Be sure to sign up at the **Welcome Center!**

* ***When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: A St. Patrick's Day Celebration***

He's been called one of the true musical gems to come out of Ireland and on **Sunday, March 6**, at 3:00 p.m. vocalist/guitarist Paul Duffy will headline our largest concert of the year in "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," as a tribute to St. Patrick's Day.

Paul and his musical group will run through a repertoire of the greatest Irish folk songs ever sung, tunes like "Molly Malone," "Danny Boy," "Dirty Old Town," and "What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor." A gifted musician, Duffy plays the saxophone, trumpet, flute, guitar, keyboards, drums, bass, tin whistle and bagpipes. He attended the Dublin Conservatory of Music to learn to read music. His concerts at UUCS draw audiences from all over Southwest Florida. Tickets are \$15. (Buy online in advance at <http://www.beachsun.org/concerts/tickets/> to be certain of getting a seat.)

* **Party for "Singles for Friendship Group."** Dee Widder has offered her home for a Potluck for the first 20 singles that sign up for Friday evening 5:30 p.m., **March 18th**. Contact DeanaWidder@gmail.com or 377-9028 to

reserve. If you are not receiving the singles group emails, please email Cathy Cyrus at Cyr603@yahoo.com and ask her to add you to the list so you can join our over 30 activities we have coordinated just for you. To see our activities, visit our Singles activities page at [UUSarasota.org](http://www.uucsarasota.org) under the Adult Activities on the top-bar (<http://www.uucsarasota.com/uu-singles-for-friendship.html>) or visit our Bulletin Board.

* **CALLING ALL UUCS AUTHORS**

We are holding an Authors Showcase book sale and signing on **Sunday, April 3**, 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., in the Lexow Wing. Any UUCS member or friend who has authored a book and would like to participate in this event is welcome. We encourage books on a variety of subjects and genres - fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books. The church receives 15% of the total sales collected for each book. The deadline for signing up is: **March 13**. For further information, please contact: Jim Keeney at jim.keeney@gmail.com or 928-3378, or Lynne Singer at lynnes500@gmail.com or 726-7463.

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 or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Newtown Nation Celebrates Its First Anniversary on Saturday, February 27th** at 3 p.m. at Robert Taylor rec center at Myrtle and Rt. 301. All are welcome. Newtown Nation is a 501c(3) that encourages entrepreneurial development and operates a neighborhood Farmers Market.

* **Backpack Volunteers** sign up now for April and May packing at the church. See Sara or Don Slate in the courtyard or email dsslate@comcast.net.

* **Whole Bean Coffee, Chocolate Bars** and other Fair Trade items, which are not available at the Sunday table, are available by special order. It is easy to place one. Talk to Suzie Brucklacher or write to her at justice@uucsarasota.org, subject line: Fair Trade Special Order. The table does have a fresh box of Fruit & Nut bars (\$1) and small chocolates (5/\$1).

* **Join The Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun background checks on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue. Signs provided. Wear white. Bring a friend or make some new ones. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at nadaevans@comcast.net.

* **Sign the Solar Energy Petition.** The organizers of this petition have renewed efforts in 2016 to collect signatures. While this state constitutional amendment to expand solar energy in Florida will not appear on the November ballot, it will appear on the 2018 ballot with additional signatures. The petition is available to sign at the social justice table. Florida registered voters only.

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

SUNDAY EVENTS, MARCH 6

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "From Ash Wednesday to Easter," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Unitarianism is rooted in puritanism and the puritans believed that "giving up something for Lent" was a foolish practice not explicitly commanded in the Bible. They believed Lent detracted from the importance of leading a moral and upright life all year round. But have religious liberals really outgrown the need to "give something up" for a month?

*** Music: 9:00 a.m. Mindy Simmons; 11:00 a.m. Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

*** 10:05 Forum: "Religion and Secularism: Navigating the Treacherous Sea of Words"**

In the modern era of instant communication, it is becoming more and more important that we understand each other. What one of us hears another say is frequently not what the other thought she said. This may be the primary challenge to effective communication between the so-called "secular" community and liberal religion. We will look closely at several words and phrases that tend to lead to the greatest confusion, and then discuss how we can authentically seek mutual understanding without forcing our respective definitions on one another. **Presenter: John B. Hooper, President, Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association**

Lakewood Ranch, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton 34202

***10:00 a.m. "The Great Adventure, Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" sermon by Rev. Connie Goodbread**

What are the foundations of our faith? What does the world need us to be? What is worth all this effort? What difference could I possibly make?

Connie is in her eleventh year as UUA Field Staff serving the Southern Region on the Congregational Life Staff Team. She has served as Field Staff in three regions of our Association. Connie has studied Healthy Congregation development and congregational conflict identification and transformation with Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke. Connie has also co-authored Your Faith Home - a UUA pamphlet.

*** Music: Ed Kinder, keyboard**

*** 10:00 a.m. Nursery and Childcare provided**

*** 11:00 a.m. Food and Fellowship**

We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship. Order off the menu.