



April 3, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS

On the first Sunday of each month, I invite those who want to join the church to come to my office after the service and sign the membership book. This Sunday I will be away celebrating my thirty-fifth wedding anniversary. However, after the second service a member of the Board and a member of our Membership Committee will be available to facilitate the process. It is a low-key occasion with just a little ritual. I would especially encourage those of you who are "Friends of the Church" to become members, with all the rights and privileges membership includes.

We have no hard sell. Although we do have a good street sign, a good website and good ads at Burns Court, we subscribe to a saying of the Unitarian minister, Ralph Waldo Emerson, "If a man has good corn or wood, or boards, or pigs, to sell, or can make better chairs or knives, crucibles or church organs, than anybody else, you will find a broad hard-beaten road to his house, though it be in the woods." After his death his friends shortened it to this - "If a man can preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to his door."

We are not aggressive at proselytizing but we delight in new members. They bring new ideas and new perspectives. So if you are ready to say "Here I belong - and I am willing to make a commitment to be a member!" we invite you to beat a path to my office after the second service.

SUNDAY EVENTS, APRIL 3

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "Climateers: A Report from the Field: How to Be a Good Person on Earth in Light of Climate Change," Lea Hall, Diane Cirksena and friends.**

Climateer - noun: (1) a person who learns about, minimizes, mitigates, and adapts to climate change; (2) a person who seeks moral ground for living with climate change, both individually and collectively.

Climateers gathered at our church this winter for the second consecutive year to support one another in responding to climate change. Two groups met weekly, one exploring the moral challenge of climate change, one focusing on the sixth extinction of species. Members of these groups share brief reports from their personal paths, with revelations and resolutions.

This sermon will be presented via video at a later date at Lakewood Ranch.

*** Music: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Thomas Koch, Guitar, Don Bryn, piano**

Thomas Koch began his classical guitar studies at age eleven in his native country of Germany. After graduating from two music conservatories with degrees in music education and guitar performance, Thomas traveled to France, Spain, Portugal and Croatia to further expand his horizon in the world of music. Thomas has performed as soloist with many orchestras along Florida's Gulf Coast, and he is the founding president of Guitar Sarasota, a non-profit organization that promotes the education, appreciation and cultural significance of the classical guitar.

* **10:05 Forum: "Women Like Us Foundation: One Girl at a Time."** One Girl at a Time is the signature program of the *Women Like Us* Foundation. Teen girls learn the value of living purposely and are educated in life skills and the importance of leadership. Mentors empower them through workshops that target these topics and others like True Beauty, Gender in the Media, Human Trafficking, Eating Disorders, and Bullying. Through knowledge of important topics critical to their health development, these girls will be contributors to a better society and their own families. Presenter, Deb Myers, of Women Like Us Foundation, Indianapolis; Moderator, Fredric Sirasky.

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

* **10:00 a.m. "The Religion of the Candidates," video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

* **Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard**

* **10:00 a.m. In-Service Childcare provided**

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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

* **On Sunday April 3rd, children and youth will begin in the Sanctuary for a special earth-centered presentation, "Grandmother Oak."** After the presentation, we will move into our Tapestry of Faith classes.

* **Sunday, April 3rd, is our UUCS - Youth Group Video Night.** We invite anyone 6th grade through high school to join us, from 6-7:30 p.m., in the Youth room as we watch episodes from "The Simpsons." What can we learn from Homer about faith, world religions and social issues? The Youth are encouraged to bring friends - there will be pizza & snacks.

* **A Campfire Night is planned for Saturday, April 16th,** starting at 6:00 pm. Join us for a potluck dinner, fun and friendship around the campfire. Drinks and s'mores are provided. All ages welcome!

* **Tickets on sale now for the RE Pancake Brunch on April 24th.** You won't want to miss this annual event! All proceeds will be donated to a charity of the children and youth's choosing.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **New art exhibit in the Lexow Wing today, April 3rd!** The Arts Council invites you to see this new joint exhibit of paintings by UUCS member Genevieve Perkins and watercolor artist Maggie Nevens. Spend a few minutes in the Lexow Wing Gallery to appreciate the work in oils, pastel, and watercolor by these two talented

artists, then mark your calendar for the artists' reception on **Sunday, April 17th** at 11:30 AM, immediately following the Sunday service.

* **Last chance for chocolate!** Due to the warm weather, this is our last opportunity to order chocolate for several months. \$38 for a box of 12 bars, each 2.8 oz. Also accepting special orders for coffee, tea, and other goodies. Stop by the Social Justice table for a list of available flavors, or email Justice@uusarasota.com.

CARING

* **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. News of our congregation can also be found at Caring in the Members Corner.

* **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

* **Are you interested in reading what other UU churches in the Southern District are doing?** Would you like to know which churches are installing new ministers or presenting workshops of interest? The Southern Region newsletter details information of use to church leaders. Go to SouthernRegion@uua.org to read or sign up for the news about other churches and fellowships.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Together let's eat less meat! The place to be on April 10 is our Second Sunday potluck**, sponsored by the Sustainable Eating Task Force. Plan to bring us your favorite vegan or vegetarian dish (eight servings or more) and help promote a healthier and more viable planet. Scrumptious salads and crafted casseroles will be among your dining choices. Join us after the service at 11:30. Meat items are accepted, but not encouraged. Questions? Check with Loni Zeichner - gzeichner@tampabay.rr.com. All are welcome.

* **5-Star Movie** - The last 5-star movie of this season will be shown on **Friday, April 8** at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. *Departures* is an outstanding Japanese film about a cellist who becomes a "nakanshi" - one who prepares the dead for burial.

*** MARK THIS DATE for the next FreeThinkers Presentation**

Friday, May 13, 10 a.m. *The Soul Traveler*, A Field of Poetry, Kevin Mooney

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@uusarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

*** Bethesda House Food Donations.** Bring a single serving can (like pork-and-beans or ravioli), travel size toiletries, paper products (toilet paper and towels). Donations collected every Sunday. Thank you!

*** Last Chance to Backpack.** Sign up today for May 4 and May 18 packing at the church. See Sara in the courtyard or email dsslate@comcast.net.

*** Join The Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun background checks at Rep. Buchanan's office downtown at 111 S. Orange Ave. on Thursday, April 7, 4-5 p.m. Signs provided. Wear white. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at nadaevans@comcast.net.

*** Backlash on Equality presentation by Ken Shelin**, co-chair of Equality Florida, Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Update on Florida legislators trying to turn back the clock on so many social advances and how to keep Florida moving forward. Sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Co-sponsored by Interweave and your Social Justice committee. Free and open to the public.

*** New Members, Have You Signed** the state petition to expand solar energy? Available at the social justice table. Any Florida voter may sign the petition.

*** Want to Share Your Time and Talent** but not sure where? Pick up the flyer with many volunteer opportunities at the SJ table.

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, APRIL 10

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 10:30 a.m. One service only. "You want justice, don't you? There isn't any. There is only love," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

The title of this Sunday's sermon is taken from the play *J.B.* by the poet Archibald MacLeish. I will preach about the Biblical story of Job. In my sermon I will be drawing ideas from the book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*

by Harold Kushner.

This sermon will be presented via video at a later date at Lakewood Ranch.

*** Music: 10:30 a.m. Fernando Traba, Bassoon, Don Bryn, Piano**

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Florida Legislative Update."** A discussion of recent legislation enacted by the Florida legislature. Presenter, Representative Ray Pilon; Moderator, Verna Safran.

Representative Pilon was born in Michigan and attended Northern Michigan University, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in 1968. He moved to Florida in 1979 and began working as a police officer. In 1996, he was elected as a Republican to the Sarasota County Commission, where he served until 2000. In 2010, he came out of political retirement and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives over Democratic incumbent Keith Fitzgerald, and was reelected in 2012 over Liz Alpert in District 72 in which the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota is located. He is currently running for Florida State Senate in the district that includes Sarasota County.

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

*** 10:00 a.m. "What Would You Do If You Won the Lottery?" Video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

*** Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard**

*** 10:00 a.m. In-Service Childcare provided**

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

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