



September 4, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota FL 34232

(941) 371-4974

Fax (941) 377-4897

www.uusarasota.org

MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS

In his July acceptance speech Mr. Trump said, "An amendment, pushed by Lyndon Johnson, many years ago, threatens religious institutions with a loss of their tax-exempt status if they openly advocate their political views. I am going to work very hard to repeal that language and protect free speech for all Americans."

The 1954 Johnson Amendment stated that "all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office." It was passed by a Republican Congress, and signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Therefore, the church cannot endorse any particular candidate. If we invite one candidate to speak, we must invite all the candidates running for the same office. We can take a stand on ballot issues. When I am in my official role as your minister, I cannot endorse any candidates. However, it is not correct to say that I cannot "openly advocate" my political views. When I am not in the role of your minister, I have freedom of speech. For example, I can put a bumper sticker on the car I own, and I can and do attend political events.

I encourage you to engage fully in the political process. However, when you or I are officially representing the church, let us follow the law and try to avoid the revenue agents.

SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 4

*** 10:30 a.m. - Religious Ethics and Political Campaigns - Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Does the Golden Rule provide an ethical rule for political campaigns?

*** Music: Leah Rothe, violin; Don Bryn, piano**

Leah has been providing violin music to Tampa Bay and Central Florida for ten years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Violin Performance and has studied alongside the internationally renowned Miami String Quartet. She performs regularly with Orlando Philharmonic, Disney/Epcot Orchestras, and other Florida orchestras as needed. In most recent years, she has been booked for nearly 40 solo weddings and events per year while maintaining her symphony career.

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: World Wide Disruptors of 2016 thru 2030**

How will these disruptors change your everyday life and the power balance of nations? *Uber* is testing driverless cars in Pennsylvania. Road tests are being conducted in India and China. Worldwide, at least 18 companies are developing autonomous cars, including BMW, Audi and Toyota. Will you need to own a car in 2020? Solar energy's low cost will make it the primary fuel of the world by 2030. How will the power shift from oil rich nations to nations rich in technology affect the United States? Speaker DeeAnna Dowdle, Moderator Don Diddams.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

* **Nursery:** Loving care for infants and toddlers is available during the 10:30 a.m. Service.

* **RE Classes:** A religious education program is available for children & youth during the 10:30 a.m. Service.

* **Sunday, September 4th (Labor Day Weekend)** - No RE Classes. Childcare will be available for children 10 and under.

* **“BYOC” Welcome Back Party, Sunday Sept, 11th** - Join us for a “Bring Your Own Cereal” Welcome Back Breakfast. We’ll provide bowls, spoons, milk, almond milk and bananas – you bring a favorite cereal. Parents/guardians are welcome to join us.

* **Youth Group Video Night, Sunday Sept 11th** - All youth, 6th grade through high school, are invited 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? We’ll also be discussing our plans for activities and events. Bring a friend– there will be pizza & snacks.

* **Save the Date: Family Event "Wine, Cheese and Mulch" – Saturday, Sept 17th, 5:30 p.m.**

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **There is a new art exhibit in the Lexow Wing Gallery!** The UUCS Arts Council is pleased to present “The Geometry of Botany, and other New Work” -- an exhibit of photographs by member John Kokajko. One curator of John’s work has said that while “illustrating the interesting borders between science, math, and art, the photographs also evoke a philosophical awareness that nature is amazingly complex and beautiful at the same time.” Stop in the gallery this Sunday to see these stunning photographs. Then make space on your calendar for the artist’s reception at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday September 18th.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BOARD

* In August, the Social Justice committee joined an effort by church neighbors to protect a city park on the corner of Beneva and Fruitville Roads. The committee also endorsed a call by the Florida League of Women Voters for state laws to ban military style weapons and ammunition and close gun registration loopholes.

A week later, the church Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed both positions, allowing Board President Charles Lee to sign planned letters to Sarasota commissioners and Florida legislative officials. We thank the Board for acting quickly to strengthen our public statements on these social and climate justice issues.

The Social Justice Committee

CARING

* **Are you caring for someone with dementia?** The Pines of Sarasota Education & Training Institute has produced DVDs, featuring (Alzheimer's and dementia expert) Teepa Snow, that are a great resource for caregivers. These DVDs contain important information and training to help you care for your loved one. Topics include:

- It's All in Your Approach
- In-Home Dementia Care: Tips & Techniques
- Improving Communications in Dementia Care
- The Inevitable Hospital Stay
- End of Life Care & Letting Go

The DVDs are available at all Sarasota County Libraries, Senior Friendship Centers, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital of Sarasota and Tidewell Hospice.

* **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

* **Have you signed up for the Code Red notification and registration?** Google Sarasota government, scroll to the bottom and sign up. You will receive notifications of serious weather conditions. You can also sign up for special evacuation if you have a health issue. If you live alone, have you made arrangements to get together with another if weather circumstances require same?

* **ARTISANS Drop in on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - noon.** We make crafts to sell and for church events. We also work on our own hobbies such as knitting hats that we donate to various causes. Material supplied. Join us for coffee and chat.

* **An important part of our church community is our 'meet and greet'.** Every Sunday we provide juice and cookies for our guests. We are in need of volunteers to take one Sunday a month to fulfill this job. If you can help out, please contact June Brasgalla at juneb22@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Second Sunday Potluck: Sunday, September 11,** after the Service. Please bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts or other foods that do not need to be heated. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged. All are welcome.

* **Cinema Conversations - Wednesday, September 7th, at 7p.m. in the Lexow Wing.** Our topic will be "Indignation". We'll follow a young Jewish man from Newark, NJ, on a journey into uncharted territory as he attends a predominantly Christian College in Ohio during the Korean War. Join us for a compelling discussion.

* **Summer Comedy**

We will be showing the last in our series of 5-star movies on Friday, September 9th, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. *Leap of Faith* is about a sham evangelist (Steve Martin) who gets stuck in a small town and decides to hold a revival. It changes his life. Martin's performance is remarkable and you will leave with a smile and plenty to think about. Come join us!

* **"Discovering UUCS" – A Newcomer Orientation in the Lexow Wing** **Saturday, September 24; 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

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!

* **Get Together Dinners**

Now is the time to sign up for our Fall Get Together Dinners. The dates are Oct. 22, Nov. 26, and Dec. 17. It is a great way to get to know new friends at the church and/or reacquaint with old friends. The dinners, usually 6 to 12 people, are held in people's homes. The host provides the main dish and guests bring the sides, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. Registration forms are available at the Get Together Dinner table in the courtyard or save paper and register online www.uusarasota.org

Deadline for registering is September 25.

Carole Malone, John Brackett, Linda Hill, Judy Weihe, and Nancy Thomas
Get Together Dinners Committee

* If a class is being cancelled or rescheduled, please inform the office so our church Calendar can be kept up to date. Thank you.

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 each month, join the mailing list at justice@uusarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Used Bicycles for Turning Points.** El Parent will pick up your old or used bicycle and deliver it to the bicycle repair shop at Turning Points, the one stop social service center in Bradenton. Contact El at elparentjekp@gmail.com or 813-507-8735.

* **You Can Help Flood Victims in Louisiana.** Go to the [homepage](#) of the church website for more information. Thank you!

* **Have You Signed The Petitions? To: (1) Restore Felon Voting Rights in Florida, (2) Ban Fracking in Florida, (3) Further expand Solar in Florida, (4) Protect the Sarasota city park at Beneva and Fruitville (city residents only).** All are at the Social Justice table.

* **Backpack Volunteer Signup.** Backpack is our child hunger project. For more information, see Sara or Don at the Backpack table on Sunday or email dsslate@comcast.net.

* **Bethesda House Pantry** -- Every Sunday we collect single serving cans (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries and paper products (TP and towels). Look for the donation bin outside the sanctuary.

* **Produce Shopping Guide.** Pick up your 2-sided wallet card at the social justice table. Carry it when you shop. Take an extra for a friend.

* **Americans United - Movie, Sept. 17. "First Freedom – The Fight for Religious Liberty" at 7:30 p.m., Jefferson Room.** Free admission. Mark your calendar.

* **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. For Fair Trade special orders, contact Suzie Brucklacher at justice@uusarasota.org, subject line Fair Trade Special Order.

SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 11

* **10:30 a.m. - "Grief Over the Years," Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

During Memorial Services I often talk about the feelings of grief that we have in the days and weeks about a death. On the 15th anniversary of 9/11, I want to think aloud about how we feel many years after a loss.

* **Music: Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Agreement - What's Hidden in Those Thousands of Pages, and Why Should We Care?"**

President Obama is pushing for approval yet this year, while Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump both say they oppose it. Meanwhile, many progressive groups are livid. We'll be hearing a lot more about it in the next few months. Find out what the shouting's about, then tell us what you think! Presenter, Don Diddams; Moderator, Verna Safran.

* **Services resume in Lakewood Ranch on September 11 at 10:00 a.m.**

Do you live in or near Lakewood Ranch? Our Lakewood Ranch congregation took a break for the summer and will resume meetings on **Sunday, September 11, at 10 a.m.** The featured speaker will be Rev. Brock Leach.