



## WEEKLY CONTACT – January 27, 2019

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota  
3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232  
941-371-4974

**PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL: Email Submissions to [ContactUUCS@gmail.com](mailto:ContactUUCS@gmail.com).**

**Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon**

**Please list publication date in the subject line**

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

Sometimes we are lucky to attract to our pulpit an outstanding retired minister. This Sunday is one of those times. I really look forward to sitting in the congregation while the Rev. Bill Morgan is our guest speaker. But I will not come just to hear Rev. Morgan. The State College of Florida Presidential String Quartet will provide the music. I will come early so I can sit in the front row.

After the 10:00 A.M. service (only one service this Sunday) I will head for the auction.

### SUNDAY EVENTS, JANUARY 27

#### **\*UUCS SERVICE at 10:00 only**

"When the Earth Turns Upside Down" Sermon by Rev. Bill Morgan.

What do you do when everything is suddenly different? When disease attacks, death strikes, or its shadow looms – any of those twists of life that turn your world upside down? Where do you go then? When the way it was no longer is, who do you become?

William M. Morgan, Jr. has taught at the University of South Florida, Sarasota, Manatee, for the past ten years. He previously taught at Georgia College and State University, the Liberal Arts College for the Georgia university system. He received a Master of Theology degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and for many years served Presbyterian Churches in Montana, New Mexico, Texas, Missouri, and Georgia.

Over the years he received awards for his work in national and international peacemaking and in promoting improved racial and ethnic relations. He taught courses in Ethics, and courses in Religion. His research and teaching focused especially on Ancient Near Eastern cultures and on the development of the Hebrew Bible.

#### **\*Music performance today is by the State College of Florida Presidential String Quartet:**

**Tyler Pinter**, violin, is in his second year with the SCF Presidential Quartet. He is a music major at the State College of Florida and aspires to be a music educator and violin performer. In addition to the SCF Presidential Quartet, Tyler also performs in the first violin section of the SCF Bradenton Symphony Orchestra.

**Daniel Williams**, violin, is a second-year music major at the State College of Florida where he plays violin in the SCF Bradenton Symphony Orchestra, sings in the SCF Concert Choir, and performs in the SCF Musical Theater Ensemble. He takes violin lessons with Dr. Felicia Brunelle and aspires to be a music performer. This is his first year to be a member of the SCF Presidential String Quartet.

**Joshua Adler** is in his second year at the State College of Florida and his second year as a member of the SCF Presidential String Quartet. In addition to viola, Josh also plays the violin and plays guitar in the SCF Jazz Messengers combo. Josh wishes to be a song writer and composer, as well as a viola performing artist. He takes viola lessons with Laura Jensen-Jennings and performs in the viola section of the SCF Bradenton Symphony Orchestra.

**Marcus Anderson** is a second-year cello at the State College of Florida and has studied cello with Sue Stein, Fred Gratta and Anne Parrette. This is his third semester to be a member of the SCF Presidential String Quartet and fourth semester to be a member of the cello section of the SCF Bradenton Symphony Orchestra. As a music major, Marcus aspires to a music educator and cello performer.

In 2015, the State College of Florida established the SCF Presidential String Quartet as an outreach ensemble to help fill the needs of the college and the community. The four students in the Presidential String Quartet are on full scholarships for their service, rehearse weekly with a string coach, and perform for SCF Foundation events, college activities, and community functions. They serve at the pleasure of Dr. Carol Probstfeld, president of the State College of Florida.

***\*There will be no Forum or Discovery and Discussion today so that instead you may enjoy today's Auction!***

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) Catherine Bonner DRE@uusarasota.org**

10:00 RE Classes:

- Childcare will be provided during the auction time till 12:30
- Nursery: Those 3 and younger will play with our nursery staff and volunteers
- Prek-5th Grade: The children will be making a pyramid out of the donated cereal boxes, making blankets for the homeless and making a poster for our upcoming pet blessing.
- Youth: The Youth Group will be exploring the topic of Responsibility and will be comparing the 7 UU principles to the 7 deadly sins and the 7 social sins.

**LAKWOOD RANCH at 10 at Hyatt Place - [www.uulakewoodranch.org](http://www.uulakewoodranch.org)**

This Sunday **Kathleen Konicek-Moran** will speak on embracing the Spectrum: New Thoughts on LGBTQ Lives in the USA, 2019.

Dr. Kathleen Konicek-Moran is a Quaker-tarian (Quaker and Unitarian). She has been involved in UU for the past 7 years and was one of the founding members of UU of Lakewood Ranch. She is an author and artist and formerly the chair of the Social Justice committee in both UU Miami and UU of Lakewood Ranch. She is a sister, aunt, grandmother and friend to LGBTQ individuals.

**Dave Longo will be our Guest Musician.**

#### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

**\*Bridge for Fun:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday, ongoing. 1:00 - 4:00 Reeb Room. Join our friendly group of mostly intermediate bridge players. We play for fun and to help each other improve our game. If you haven't played for a long time, you are welcome -- we'll help you catch up. If you are an absolute beginner or serious tournament player, this is likely not the group for you. Sign up. Contact Henry Bright at [HenBright@aol.com](mailto:HenBright@aol.com) or (941) 966-5784.

**\*Everyday Spiritual Practice:** New group will meet next on Saturday February 2, Reeb Room 1:00...12:30. Book Purchase is not required to attend and there is no fee. No advanced preparation is required for the sessions which are open to all, and you may attend one or more as you wish. In our next meeting, we shall read together and discuss the chapter titled "Living by Heart," pp. 67-72 by Rev. Laurel Hallman. Contact: Bob Downie - [rdownie@comcast.net](mailto:rdownie@comcast.net) (609) 417-2460

**\*Personal Growth and Renewal:** "I Connect Therefore I Am." The next free interactive workshop for members of UUC on Sunday February 3, 2:00...4:00 Reeb Room. Positivity

strategist Robyn Stratton- Berkessel will present methods to see the world anew and build connection and community through appreciative communication. Email Phyllis Mufson, [pmufson@comcast.net](mailto:pmufson@comcast.net) for reservations or to join the mail list.

**\*Zen Meditation:** Sundays at 7:00 Reeb Room. A group focusing on the study and practice of Zen. All are welcome, beginners as well as experienced Zen practitioners. Drop-in, anyone interested should just show up on Sunday evenings. Ongoing every Sunday. Class leaders are Don DeMaio and Paul Lewis.

## **SERENDIPITY AUCTION - IT'S HERE!**

It's finally here! The big day has arrived...

Be sure you have your bidder number, see changes plus the great new items in the Addendum, enjoy our buffet and wine bar (starting at 11:15), and... **BID HIGH and BID EARLY!**

For help, see anyone wearing silly headgear.

## **CARING**

**\*Caring provides short term help with food, transportation and visits. Would you like to have a buddy? Contact Dee Widder at [DeanaWidder@gmail.com](mailto:DeanaWidder@gmail.com) or 377-9028.**

\*Would you like to share good news or honor a friend who passed away? Make a **Tribute donation** and send your check with a Tribute form to the office. Forms are available in the office and online at Members Corner. The Tribute will be acknowledged in the Weekly Contact.

**\*Does the Minister have your Memorial Form on file?** Do you wish the office to have your emergency contact information? Submit a form which can be found online at Members Corner or in the office.

## **MY 2000TH GOLDEN RAINTREE SEEDLING**

**From Dick Happy for the UUCS volunteer garden crew:**

A church visitor entered the Memorial Garden and saw me on my knees. "I'm surprised to see you out in public praying like that," he said. "Not praying," I answered, "just contemplating how to get rid of these stupid Golden Raintree seedlings. Diane, the volunteer garden boss (and my wife) wants them pulled, and I am overwhelmed."

The visitor, being from the northeast where everything is white or gray at this time of year, thought the mass of little green seedlings looked "cute". So, I explained to him about this awful tree at the south end of the Garden. "You see," I said, "the tree produces seedpods in October that "droppeth as the gentle rain upon the place beneath" (apologies to Shakespeare). "The place beneath" is the Garden. Each of the seedpods contains nine seeds which germinate and turn into little seedlings which then populate a large segment of the garden."

His eyes glazed over, but I continued, "I just received an award for the 2000th seedling I had pulled." "Oh, he said. "Would you like a bouquet of the little buggers?" I asked. He stared at me for a few seconds and then left. I went back to pulling - numbers 2001,2002,2003 - on my way to 3,000.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**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. Note that there are new handicap spots by the church library and another four handicap spots behind the sanctuary, with a ramp leading up to the sanctuary.

**Food Drive** - Please bring in your unopened cereal boxes for the children's food drive and pyramid this Sunday. We are 30 boxes shy of our goal. All food will be donated to the All Faith's Food Bank.

**Making Connections**- Want to get to know a younger person in our Church? Sign-up for this new program that pairs up congregation members with a child or family in our RE program for a two-week pen pal relationship that ends with a tea party on Feb 10th after service.

**\*We have an easy-to-use Directory at Members Corner.** Sign is at [uusarasota.org](http://uusarasota.org), click on Members Corner...if you need the password, call the office, scroll to Member Search type in the first or last name. Click on the person's name to bring up their address.

**\*From Valerie Kerwin, Library and Book Table Chair:**

I almost always have the UU Book Table out on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. In the winter when we have two services, I open between the two services. If any members would like to help with the book table, we could open every Sunday or for a longer time on 1st and 3rd Sundays. Stop by this Sunday at the Book Table if you are interested or write me at [valerieblackkerwin@gmail.com](mailto:valerieblackkerwin@gmail.com).

***\*Please note we have a new address for Contact submissions. Send your items to [ContactUUCS@gmail.com](mailto:ContactUUCS@gmail.com). In the subject line, please list your date of publication. Deadline is Tuesday at noon.***

**Happy Birthday to the following members:**

January 26 Jill DeLano, DeeAnna Dowdle, Myke Greenspan, Steve Martin  
January 27 Helene Reeder  
January 28 Dwight Logan  
January 30 Linda Roggenburg, Henry Warren  
February 3 Phyllis Wynne

**If you are a member with a birthday this week that is not listed here, please inform the office.**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITMENTS

**\*Plastic Facts:** Scientists have found various micro-plastics (small, barely visible pieces of plastic) in 93 percent of bottled water and packed into Arctic sea ice in huge abundance.

**\*Jan. 31 Brady Winter Forum on Gun Violence.** The featured speaker will be Marjory Stoneman Douglas alumni Robert Schentrup. His sister Carmen was killed in last year's massacre at the school. Robert is now a national Brady Team Enough student activist. Joining him will be Robert Disney, Brady Organizing Director and our chapter's liaison to the national office. The forum will be held at the Selby Library auditorium at 2 pm.

**\*Sarasota County Legislative Delegation Meeting,** January 28, 9 to noon  
Sarasota County Commission Chambers, 1600 Ringling Blvd. This is the public's opportunity to hear what our county and city commissioners want from the upcoming legislative session and for citizens of both city and county to speak out about important issues such as retaining funds

in the Sadowski Housing Trust to make affordable housing funds available to our community.

\*Polls show growing national support, as much as 70 percent, 85 percent among Democrats, and even a majority of Republicans, for a **publicly financed, guaranteed health care solution**. In November, a number of Medicare for All candidates were elected to the House, and a bill is going to be introduced on this issue. The National Nurses United, the largest union of nurses in the history of our country, supports Medicare for All.

\*Venice Interfaith Community Association is hosting the second session of their **2019 Winter Series, American Racism: Yours, Mine, and Ours** on Monday, January 28 at 7:00 in the evening. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S Tamiami Trail, Venice Topic: The Past is Never Dead. It's Not Even Past. Speakers: Jeff LaHurd, Sarasota County History Specialist and Judge Charles Williams, 12th Judicial Court. For a complete listing of the topics and speakers for the series, go to [www.veniceinterfaith.org](http://www.veniceinterfaith.org)

**\*Looking for social justice information?** Stop by the Social Justice table in the courtyard to learn about volunteer opportunities and to purchase fair trade items including chocolate, coffees, teas and olive oil. Also check out the Social Justice web pages on the church's website, go to [uucsarasota.com](http://uucsarasota.com) and click the Social Justice tab. For fair trade special orders, contact Suzie Brucklacher at [justice@uucsarasota.org](mailto:justice@uucsarasota.org), subject line, Fair Trade Special Order.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS FREE THINKERS**

\*Hold the date: Friday February 1st at 10 in the Sanctuary, FreeThinkers presents "**Setting Pro-life on its Ear,**" featuring **Rev. Dr. Rebecca Todd Peters**, nationally regarded feminist, Christian social ethicist and author of *Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice*, with Stephanie Fraim, CEO & President of Planned Parenthood of Southwest & Central Florida. Rev. Peters will sign her books, which will be available after the presentation.

Questions will be submitted on index cards at the event or sent in advance by email at [FreeThinkersuucs@gmail.com](mailto:FreeThinkersuucs@gmail.com). No open mic at the event.

#### **\*CALLING ALL UUCS AUTHORS**

The annual Authors' Showcase book sale and signing will be held this year in the Lexow Wing on Sunday, March 3. Any UUCS member or friend who has authored a book (or more than one) and would like to participate in this annual event is welcome. We encourage books on a variety of subjects and genres – fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's books, etc. The church receives 15% of the total sales collected for each book.

The deadline for getting yourself into the catalog is February 15. Those of you who signed up for the Fall date that was canceled are all set. To register for the sale, please contact Jim Keeney at [jim.keeney@gmail.com](mailto:jim.keeney@gmail.com) or 941-928-3378 or Lynne Singer at [lynes500@gmail.com](mailto:lynes500@gmail.com) or 941-726-7463.

**\*Call to UUCS Artists -- April 2019 Themed Members Exhibit, "A Good Earth"**. Ed Schempp, a lifelong Unitarian-Universalist activist wrote that "Unitarian-Universalism looks not to a perfect heaven, but toward a good earth." Ways we can help create "A Good Earth" guided by our 7 Principles is the theme for the show. It's not too early to start! UUCS Members and Friends are invited to participate. Each person may submit up to two pieces no larger than 16 x 20 inches each, or one larger piece up to 30 x 30 inches. Three-dimensional pieces will also be accepted. To reserve your space, provide size and the title card information for your work (Title, Medium, Price, and your name and contact information) to Gail Coppock at [gailcoppock@gmail.com](mailto:gailcoppock@gmail.com) by April 12.

#### **SUNDAY EVENTS, FEBRUARY 3**

#### **UUCS**

**10:00 and 11:30 "The Struggle for the Leadership of America," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

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

10:15 am Forum "Overcoming Indifference: Making the Population Connection in Today's Crowded World" What ever happened to ZPG—Zero Population Growth? The Population Connection is the successor organization and our presenter is coming from its California headquarters to discuss issues created by population growth today.

Presenter, John Seager, Moderator, Jim Keeney.

11:30 Discovery and Discussion

**LAKEWOOD RANCH at 10 at Hyatt Place - [www.uulakewoodranch.org](http://www.uulakewoodranch.org)**

Carrie Seidman, guest speaker. "Creating a Trauma-Informed Community"

Mindy Simmons will be the guest musician.