



August 9, 2015

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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SUNDAY EVENTS, AUGUST 9

***10:30 a.m. "Wait AND See," by Rev. William Morgan**

Life is filled with waiting -- waiting in line, waiting for news, waiting for life to become what we had hoped it would be. What do we do with all that waiting? How can we live with it?

We will discover one answer through the people of a little village in France, who, in one of the darkest hours in history, showed that in the waiting times real life is discovered. As they waited they discovered what life means.

Rev. William Morgan is an ordained Presbyterian minister who has served a number of churches around the United States focusing on issues of peace and justice and working for economic, racial, ethnic and gender equality. He taught at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Georgia, and for the last eight years has been teaching at the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM), focusing on Ancient Israel and the Development of the Hebrew Bible, as well as on courses in Contemporary Christian Ethics. His wife, Dr. Jane A. Rose, is the Dean of Arts and Sciences at USF and a member of our church.

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

Leah Rothe 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 Forum: "Is Freedom vs. Security a Zero-Sum Game?"**

In order to achieve a sense of security, must we give up our freedom? Is there a comfortable balance between the two? Does fear make us unnecessarily give up freedom? Does complacency make us unsafe? The presentation will discuss this issue on a personal, national and international level. Moderator: Don Diddams; Presenter: John Stinespring.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Religious Education Director, Regina Bucher, may be reached at rbucher@uusarasota.org

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

* **10:30 a.m. We're practicing poetry and song!** Join us as we learn about poetry and song and how they fit into religion and spirituality.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **Summer Picnic (Second Sunday) Potluck Sunday, August 9** after the Service. Please bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts or other foods that do not need to be heated. All are welcome.

* **The Zen of Sunday nights**

The UUCS Zen meditation group will discuss Buddhism's Third Noble Truth at 7 pm in the Jefferson Room. The focus will be "Buddhism Plain & Simple," Zen master Steve Hagen's classic work. In essence, Hagen interpreted the Buddha's words to mean "whatever is subject to arising is also subject to ceasing." Everyone is invited to join the group for a discussion and meditation.

UU'S OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

* **"You might be a Unitarian and not know it"** was a catch phrase used to introduce newcomers to the UU Principles in an old ad campaign. You might have friends in the Lakewood Ranch area who would feel very comfortable in our UU world, if only they knew about it. Please share the news that we're beginning a new UU Community on September 13 (9 am) at the River Club (6600 River Club Blvd. Bradenton).

OUR "GOOD DEEDS" RECEIVE LOCAL RECOGNITION

Our church's \$29,000 Share-the-plate contributions were recognized on page D4 of Monday's Sarasota Herald-Tribune and online. Thank you to all who contributed. The article read:

"Congregants of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota contributed over \$29,000 to local charities during the fiscal year April 2014 to April 2015. The majority of the money went to the **All Faiths Food Bank Backpack Program**, providing food to schoolchildren throughout the Sarasota area.

"Other non-profits receiving substantial donations were **Transition Housing, Children First, Turning Points, Bethesda House, Meals on Wheels, Selah Freedom and Sarasota's Y Youth Shelter**. The charities are selected by the church's Social Justice Committee and are funded through the pass-the-plate program one Sunday per month."

ADULT PROGRAMS

* **Don't miss the hilarity...we are playing Balderdash**, a game of laughs that works well with groups up to 14 people. **Friday, August 14th at 1pm**. All are welcomed. Please RSVP to DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com, 350-3571.

* **Cooking with Friends** is organizing now so we can learn to cook more healthily and more sustainably. From loafs to casseroles to soups and desserts, we will explore them all. Small groups of approximately 6 people will join in one of our member's kitchens for 4 consecutive weeks and will cook and eat together. Please offer your kitchen and we will find friends to cook with you. Contact DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com -350-3571 or see the bulletin board if you want to sign up for the class or offer your kitchen. Costs will be shared among the group. We have 3 hostesses just waiting for you to sign up for food, fun and wine.

* **A Universe from Nothing: Why there is Something Rather than Nothing** by **Lawrence M. Krauss** is our study book at our Wednesday dialogs from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the West Wing sponsored by Advocates for Religious Literacy. We also discuss contributions by individuals as well as articles from Westar Institute's Fourth R Magazine. 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.

* **Creating Fellowship in our Church** just got easier, because "The Adult Programs Committee" has installed a Bulletin Board to keep you up to date on all of the offerings in addition to the Church's wonderful web site which is constantly improving. Come see what's going on this week and beyond and see if you recognize anyone in the over-fifty photographs. Questions: DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com -350-3571.

CARING

* **Read the newsletters of the Caregiver Resource Center and the Memory Disorder Clinic, which are located in the Caring Resource area in the Lexow Wing.**

* **Haven't seen someone you know?** Please give them a call and let Dee Widder know, with their permission, if there's a health problem.

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

* **The Caring Committee offers short term help with rides, meals and companionship.** If you are having surgery and would like us to be in touch, please contact Dee Widder at 377-9028 or DeanaWidder@gmail.com. If you can offer a ride to a doctor's appointment or to church or need a ride, please contact Marcia Ryan at 365-4027.

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.

* **Social Justice Meeting, Tuesday, August 11** at noon in the Lexow Wing. New members and friends, come check us out.

* **Sign the Solar Energy Petition.** The language of the proposed solar energy Florida Constitutional Amendment has received preliminary approvals. Sign the petition at the Social Justice table to put the amendment on the 2016 ballot. Don't sign the petition if you signed one earlier this year.

* **Sign the Voting Rights Petition.** Sign this petition on the SJ table to amend the Florida constitution to automatically restore voting rights to people who had been involved in the criminal justice system. 47 states already do this to some degree.

* **Thank You! from Bethesda House** for your regular food donations on Sundays. Dry cereal; cans of veggies, fruit or tuna; peanut butter; toilet paper; and pet food. Look for the collection box on the Sanctuary walkway.

* **Serve the Hungry at Salvation Army.** Kitchen helpers are needed in the summer to serve either dinner on Wednesdays or lunch on Fridays at Salvation Army at 1400 10th St., Sarasota. For more information or to schedule your time, visit the Social Justice table.

At our courtyard table today: Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa and 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, AUGUST 16

* **10:30 a.m. "What's in a Sermon?" by Bill Payton**

Why do you attend Sunday services? Is it for the fellowship? The tradition? The potluck lunches? To discover and maintain your spirituality? To hear the message? I suspect it is all of these to a varying degree depending on one's needs at any given time. Some sermons resonate with me more than others and have caused me to reflect and act. They have given me food for thought and I will try to share how some resonate more than others.

Bill is currently President of the Board of Trustees of our church. He has been a member since 2011.

* **Music: Fernando Traba, bassoon; Don Bryn, piano**

* **9:30 Forum: "Have we become overprotective of our children?"**

The trend toward "helicopter parenting" and heightened concern for children's safety brings trade-offs between safety, childhood success, and the child's emotional growth. What are the dangers and where do you think the appropriate balance lies? Moderator: Verna Safran; Presenter: Don Diddams.