



August 16, 2015

# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **SUNDAY EVENTS, 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.

Bill grew up in Akron, Ohio, served four years in the Marine Corps and returned home to attend the University of Akron where he graduated with a degree in Banking and Finance. He spent forty years in the insurance industry in a career that took him to seven different cities and states. He retired from the University of Missouri in January of 2007 where he served as the Director of Risk & Insurance Management. While in that capacity he served two terms as President of the University Risk Management and Insurance Association and was honored in 2006 as Distinguished Risk Manager of the Year.

While attending a high school reunion in Akron he became reacquainted with a high school classmate, Mary Fran Raynault. Bill and Mary Fran are now life companions and moved to Sarasota in December of 2010. He became both a UU and a member of this congregation in January of 2011 and has been active on several committees. He has three children and seven grandchildren, plays tennis, golf and bridge and loves attending Sunday services at UUCS.

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

Fernando is the Principal Bassoonist at Sarasota Orchestra and is on the Faculty at Florida Southern College.

**\* 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.

**Religious Education**

**\* 10:30 a.m. Alphabet Yoga plus Child Care**

Our Religious Education Director, Regina Bucher, and her two-year old son, have relocated to New Jersey to be closer to family. We are sorry to see them leave our community and we wish them well.

The RE committee has made plans to continue the curriculum as we near the beginning of the school year.

**UU'S OF LAKEWOOD RANCH**

**\* "You might be a Unitarian and not know it"** was a catch phrase used to introduce new-comers 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).

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**\*Spiritual Book Group** –chose the book A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle as their first selection. If you're interested, read the book and come to our next meeting on Monday September 7 from 10:00 to noon in the Library. Questions? Call Sue Cohen at 952-3466.

**\* 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](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com), call 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 dialog 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](mailto:d2mryan@verizon.net) or 365-4027.

## CARING

\* **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.

\* **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](mailto: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.

\* **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

\* Several of our members will soon be leaving for **Transylvania** where they will meet up with Rev. Roger Fritts. They will be visiting with our partner church. Happy Traveling to Charles and Lois Lee, Dale Anderson and Mary Montgomery and Beth and Tom Hollingsworth.

\* The UUCS grounds have been recognized as a Florida Friendly Landscape by the Sarasota County Extension Service. This designation is awarded to properties that follow environmentally friendly gardening and landscaping practices. Thank you to **Dick and Diane Happy** and their UUCS gardening crew for all the hard work!

\* **The UUCS Board of Trustees** will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lexow Wing. This meeting is open to our church community.

## **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@uucarasota.org](mailto:justice@uucarasota.org) or stop by the **Social Justice table on Sunday**.

\* **Your Recipe Is Waiting.** The climate justice study earlier this year identified the issue of healthy and sustainable food to be of high interest to UU members. The Sustainable Eating Task Force is now offering Meatless Monday recipes free to members. The first one is now available at the Social Justice table.

\* **Salvation Army Decision.** Given Salvation's Army continued opposition to full LGBT rights and its recent opposition to funding for Planned Parenthood, the Social Justice committee will no longer promote serving lunch and dinner at Salvation Army's 10th Street shelter. The committee is researching other hunger/homeless service providers and will announce other volunteer opportunities.

\* **Thank You for Hope!** The July share-the-plate collection is providing \$1,184 to our congregation's August 18th Day of Hope with homeless teens from the Sarasota Y. Thank you for your generous support. In August, we will share our plate with Turning Points, Bradenton's one-stop center for homeless families.

\* **SW Florida Coalition of Peace & Justice** is meeting in the Jefferson Room on Wednesday, August 19 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

\* **Bethesda House Residents** appreciate our regular food donations on Sundays, especially dry cereal, cans of veggies and fruit, tuna, peanut butter, toilet paper, and pet food. Look for the collection box on the Sanctuary walkway.

\* **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.

\* **Flea Market - Time to think about your donations**

The Flea Market this year will be held at the church Saturday, Nov. 14, and it all begins with you. Your donations of clean, serviceable household items, sports gear, books, linens, collectibles, jewelry, art and small (easy to carry) furniture make this the biggest one day event of its kind in Sarasota. Are you moving, or down-sizing? We collect most items the week of the sale, but if you have no place to keep them, bring your donations to Dee Widder's storage area. Give her a call for directions ([941-377-9028](tel:941-377-9028)). 100% of our donations help support our church and social ministry programs.

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.

**Backpack Sign-Up for 2015-16 School Year**

In response to our to our community's challenge to address homelessness and hunger, the Social Justice Committee focuses its efforts on projects that seek to reduce/eliminate homelessness and hunger. One such initiative is the committee's ongoing partnership with the All Faiths Food Bank Backpack Program.

The program provides food to children over weekends and school holidays during the school year when they may otherwise go without a meal.

Our church has committed to providing food assistance every weekend to 60 children at the Wilkinson Elementary during the 2015-16 school year. The first backpacking for the new school year is Wednesday, September 9th at 10:00. The packing will be at the church in the Lexow Wing.

Stop by the Backpack table after the service to get more information and sign up to help with backpacking.

Backpack is our congregation's largest project that addresses hunger in our community. Thanks to all for your continued support.

Sara & Don Slate

**COMING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**

**\*10:30 a.m. "Meditation," by Stephen Gillum**

"A Shift from Thinking to Awareness "

Three simple steps for anyone to enter the present moment, the Now!

\* **Music:** Elise Amaral and Christian Becker, Tibetan meditation music with sitar, ethnic flutes and crystal bowls; Don Bryn, piano.

\* **9:30 Forum:** "Should the rich pay more taxes?"

Why did the US have a 90% tax rate on the rich in the 1950's and should we do it again? Can the US survive as an Oligarchy? What does history tell us? Are you helpless or can you change the direction of the US?

Moderator: Shells Siskin; Presenter: DeeAnna Dowdle.