



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

September 13, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS**

On the evening of August 17, after two weeks of exploring Ireland, I flew from Dublin to Budapest, en route to our partner church in Romania. Although I had heard about refugees, I was unprepared for what I saw that night. I walked around the hundreds of people living in the Budapest airport, sleeping on the hard floor, hoping to get flights to other countries. Groups of police patrolled the halls. A few days later, after I had left Budapest, I watched the news reports of thousands converging on the Budapest train station.

To their credit, some religious leaders are speaking out. Pope Francis said, "May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary of Europe, take in one family."

I saw no refugees in Romania. It is not a passageway to Western Europe. Nevertheless, I imagine the members of the small Unitarian village churches in Romania will join with the Catholics in doing what they can to help.

In the United States the Unitarian Universalist Association is organizing "Border Witness" programs. The next one is November 2-7, 2015 on the U.S.-Mexico border. While this is not a direct response to the refugee crisis in Europe, it is part of an attempt to respond to similar issues in the United States. I pray for all the refugees in Europe and the United States, and I give thanks for my own stable life.

After a summer of good health, three days before I returned to Sarasota, I caught a cold. Still, it is good to be back. I am sure the warm, humid September air of Florida is the perfect cure!

Roger

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**

### **\* 10:30 am: "What Is Religion?" sermon by Roger Fritts**

Roger returns to our pulpit with a message about what religion means to a liberal faith community.

### **\* 10:30 am Music:** Brad Williams, Trombone; Don Bryn, Piano; Charlie Allman, organ

Brad Williams started playing trombone in the 4th grade in St. Petersburg, FL, and has been playing ever since. He was the only tenor trombonist accepted into the undergraduate program at Juilliard in 2001 and received many scholarships and awards to attend the school. When he was 21 years old, Brad was offered the position of principal trombone in the Sarasota Orchestra and happily returned to the Sunshine State. He was thankful for the

opportunity to learn from his more experienced colleagues and be close to his hometown of St. Petersburg. From sunny Sarasota, Brad next moved to snowy Buffalo, New York, where he played second trombone in the Buffalo Philharmonic. After a great year in Buffalo, Brad moved to New York City to be with the love of his life. After two years in New York, Rebecca and Brad moved back to Florida. Brad has held the position as principal trombone of the Sarasota Orchestra since 2009.

**\* 9:00 am: Sunday Services begin at Lakewood Ranch!**

**\* 9:30 Forum: "The Immigration Dilemma"**

Imagine you awake to tanks going down your street and men going house to house to commit violence. The government is not functioning, nor the banks. You grab your family and run for your lives until you get to Canada. What are you hoping the people of Canada will do for you as an immigrant? We will discuss why there are so many immigrants and how receiving countries are handling it. Presenter: DeeAnna Dowdle.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**10:30 a.m. Religious Education for Young People**

\* Loving care for infants and toddlers is available.

**\* Slide Into September With a Splash!**

Our Religious Education program is hosting a special open house on Sunday, September 13th from Noon to 1:30 pm. There will be a giant Slip N' Slide and games for children. Pizza, veggie burgers, fruit and special treats will be provided. Information on our religious programs for children and families will be available.

Everyone is welcome - bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Remember towels and bathing suits for the kids - the Slip N' Slide is sure to be a big hit!

Note: Parking in the church lot will be limited. Please consider parking in the Cardinal Mooney High School lot and the grassy east parking lot.

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

**\* There will be a Second Sunday Picnic Potluck on Sunday, September 13.** There was not enough food available for the August Potluck, so don't forget to bring a dish. Please remember to bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts or other foods that do not need to be heated. If you are a first-time visitor, please join us; you do not need to bring food.

**\* Mindfulness is Coming**

Last Sunday's TV show "60 Minutes" told how "mindfulness" is becoming a new movement in the U.S. But, after all, what is "mindfulness" but a simpler name for meditation. We do meditation (and discussion) every Sunday night at 7 pm. Join us this Sunday night in the Jefferson Room to talk about the "60 Minutes" story, about how mindfulness

is done, its effect on our lives (and even our brains). The session will be led by Don DeMaio, founder of the Sunday night Zen group.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**Please welcome the new church members who joined last Sunday:** Christopher Todd Sherman, Emily Le Coz, and their sons Liam and Lucas.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

\* **Do you have special talents?** This is the time to step up and share your talents with others for our fall season of Adult Programs. We make it easy for you. Just contact us to discuss your idea for a new "Adult Program" and we will help you all the way. Need inspiration? Just look on the bulletin board or on the church web site for present classes offered. All ideas will be considered. Co-chair, [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com) 350-3571

\* **We have a treat for you. We are considering having healthy vegetables, fresh from the farm, delivered to the church on Sunday morning.** You would be able to place your order earlier in the week and pick it up on Sunday as you are leaving church. The "Sustainability Task Force" needs to know how many would be interested. If we have enough interest, we will contact everyone and provide details. Don't fence-sit because we need 24 people to sign up to get the vegetables at a discounted co-op rate. Sign-up TODAY on the bulletin board and we will contact you soon. Questions: [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com) 350-3571

\* **Sustainability** means using the resources of our earth in a way that can be continued for generations to come. This is a major focus of "National UUA" and our own church. How can you help? We have made it easy. Just pick up a different "Meatless Monday" recipe every week in the courtyard or on the church website under "Social Justice." Then cook it and say Umm - that's good. If you have questions or want to join **Cooking with Friends**, contact [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com), 350-3571.

\* **Hey you, the computer aficionado**, we need you to teach our members the basics so they can enjoy their computer more. Basic email, web browsing and how to file, store and back up. It's easy to arrange a class for our upcoming "Fall Adult Programs Session," just contact [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com) or 350-3571.

\* **The Monday afternoon *Writing Your Life Story*** class is currently full, but I will take names for a wait list. If there is enough interest, we can start a new group. June Braggalla, [juneb22@comcast.net](mailto:juneb22@comcast.net).

\* **Spiritual Book Group** has chosen two books to enjoy for this month: *The Four Agreements* and *The Mastery of Love*, both written by Don Miguel Ruiz. The group will meet on the first **Monday, October 5**, 10 a.m. to noon. If you can join us, call Sue Cohen at 952-3466.

### \* **Religious Literacy Dialog**

*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](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**

### \* **Day of Hope - A Success!**

The Share-the-Plate offering in July supported an August 18th back-to-school event for children staying at the YMCA Youth Shelter. The day included a shopping trip to Barnes and Noble where the children shopped for themselves. Books and art supplies were the most popular items.

The B&N staff led a tour of the facility then treated the children to snacks at the Starbucks Cafe. A bowling & pizza party followed at the AMF Gulf Gate Lanes with UUCS volunteers and Y staff bowling with the kids. It was fun for all. One girl found time to read her book while bowling!

The children enjoyed the outing and thanked us many times over. One child said he could not believe we would actually do this for them. The Y staff was also very appreciative.

The congregation made the event possible and the volunteers made it special. Excess contributions are being used to buy B&N gift cards for children that could not participate and movie passes for outings later in the year.

In Faith, Susan Hallock

\* ***An Ideal Husband***, directed by UU member **Louise Stinespring with John Stinespring** in a leading role, will be performed on **September 15, 16 and 17** at 7 PM at Home Resource on Central Avenue. Tickets are available by calling Louise and John at 922-8141.

\* **We pride ourselves on being a church with a green sanctuary.** That involves using ceramic mugs for our coffee hour. We have a sterilizer in the kitchen and the job of cleaning cups is not too strenuous, but we need volunteers. How about you? You can sign up for a given Sunday each month, or you can be a "wait" list volunteer

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

\* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lexow Wing.** This meeting is open to our church community, and the agenda may be found on our website.

\* **"Discovering UUCS" - A Newcomer Orientation**  
**Saturday, October 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lexow Wing**

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 24, Nov 28, and Dec 26. 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](http://www.uusarasota.org)

Deadline for registering is **September 27**. Carole Malone, John Brackett, Alice Carden, and Jeanie Craig  
Get Together Dinners Committee

\* **The Flea Market Needs Your Stuff!** The Flea Market is just around the corner on **Saturday, November 14**. Please save your best gently used items during your Fall housekeeping for the big sale. We'll receive them directly at the church beginning **Wednesday, November 11**. If you're moving or doing major downsizing, please call Dee Widder, 377-9028, for information on storage options.

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

\* **Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun control resumes Thursday, Sept. 24 from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue. Signs provided. Wear white. Friends and leashed pets are welcome. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at [nadaevans@comcast.net](mailto:nadaevans@comcast.net).

\* **Fair Trade Products Back in Stock:** Olive oil and cocoa mix are now in stock on the Social Justice table, along with a great variety of chocolate bars, coffee and boxed teas. Suzie Brucklacher reports that a teaspoon of the cocoa mix will turn your coffee into cafe mocha.

\* **Buying Chocolate for Halloween?** Look for one of these three labels: Fair Trade USA, Rainforest Alliance Certified or SPP. For more labeling information, go to the church website, click on Social Justice, Fair Trade Issues. Thank you, Ted Weihe.

\* **Share-the-Plate Early This Month.** September's Share-the-Plate will be a week early on Sept. 20th. We will support the Backpack program, the congregation's largest hunger project. Thank you!

\* **Backpack Volunteers.** This school year, usually on first and third Wednesdays, volunteers will pack weekend food for children who attend Wilkinson Elementary and two other schools in Sarasota. New and regular volunteers, look for Don or Sara at the Backpack table or email [dsslate@comcast.net](mailto:dsslate@comcast.net). Signup has started. The first packing is September 23rd at 10 a.m. at the church.

\* **Sign the Solar Energy and Voting Rights Petitions.** These petitions for state constitutional amendments - to expand solar energy development and to restore voting rights to former felons - are available at the social justice table. Florida registered voters may sign to put these issues on the November 2016 ballot.

\* **Cattle Grazing in Myakka?** There is an effort in Tallahassee to allow cattle grazing in part of Myakka State Park. Cattle production is a worldwide environmental and climate issue. Pick up a flyer at the Social Justice table for more information about the issue and local action that you can take. Or go to the church website, look under the Social Justice tab: [Myakka Threatened](#).

\* **Bethesda House** thanks you for your Sunday food donations of dry cereal, cans of veggies and fruit, tuna, peanut butter, toilet paper, and pet food. Look for the collection bin on the Sanctuary walkway.

**At our courtyard table today:** Collection box for school points labels from food boxes; collection jug for non-recyclable plastic caps to benefit a local school.

#### **COMING NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

\* **10:30 a.m. "Here Comes the Pope!" sermon by Roger Fritts**

\* **10:30 a.m. Music:** Choir; Don Bryn, Piano; Charlie Allman, organ.

\* **9:30 Forum: "Your Chance to Sound Off on the News!"**

Do you ever feel frustrated, angry, or happy about something in the news? We'll summarize a few subjects from the past week, raise some issues, and ask you to share your thoughts. Sharing is a good thing! Moderator: John Stinespring; Presenter: Ava Whaley