



October 11, 2015

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

Certain questions Unitarian Universalist Ministers are asked over and over again. This is where I am getting some of my sermon topics this fall. Here is my working list. I may not cover all of them in sermons.

1. What Is Religion?
2. What Makes Unitarian Universalism Different from Other Religions?
3. Where Do the Words "Unitarian" and "Universalist" Come From?
4. Are Unitarian Universalists Christians?
5. What Is this Church's National Affiliation?
6. What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on God?
7. What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on Death?
8. What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on the Bible?
9. What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on Prayer?
10. What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on Spirituality?
11. What Is Worship like in this Congregation?
12. What Religious Education Do We Provide for Children?
13. How Is the Church Organized?
14. How Is the Church Supported Financially?
15. How Does One Become a Member?
16. What are Unitarian Universalist views on Christmas?

SUNDAY EVENTS, OCTOBER 11

*** 10:30 a.m. "Are Unitarian Universalists Christians?" sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Because we do not require a belief in God, or Christ's divinity, or the trinity, Orthodox Christian groups classify us as non-Christian. However, do I accept this conservative definition of Christianity? Today's sermon will be a summary of my answer.

UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd

*** 10:30 a.m. Music: C.Y. Hong, violin; Don Bryn, piano**

Today's musician is violinist Chung-Yon Hong. Ms. Hong received her M.A. and M.M. at The Julliard School and presented her New York Recital Debut in Carnegie Hall in 1997. Since she began her studies in Australia, she has studied with many great virtuosi around the world and has also been a scholarship, fellowship and concerto competition winner at the following: Meadowmount School of Music, Killington, Aspen, Breckenridge, Hampden-Sydney chamber music, Spoleto USA/Italy and Verbier Music Festival, Switzerland. She is currently permanent 4th chair 1st violin of the Sarasota Orchestra. She has been on the adjunct violin faculty at the State College of Florida for six years.

* **10:30 a.m. Religious Education for Young People:** Loving care for infants and toddlers and classes for older children and Youth Group.

* **9:30 Forum: "Jailhouse Nation; Criminal Justice Reform,"** The U.S.A. locks up more of its citizens than any other country. How did we get to this point and what can we do?

This discussion will be led by Adam Tebrugge, staff attorney for the ACLU of Florida. He has been a criminal defense attorney for over thirty years. He is now working full time for criminal justice reform

Tebrugge graduated from New College of Florida in 1982 and the Florida State University College of Law with high honors in 1984. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1985 and spent 23 years at the Public Defender's Office. Adam became a Board Certified Criminal Trial attorney in 1999, a distinction held by less than 1% of all attorneys in Florida. He was also the host of the television show "Law and Sarasota" which has been aired on The Education Channel in Sarasota County since 2005. Adam serves as an adjunct professor at the Thomas Cooley Law School, where he teaches "Death Penalty Seminar."

LAKEWOOD RANCH, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton, 34202

* **9:00 a.m. Music: Ed Kinder, keyboard; Claudia Holmes, Recorder**

* **We have volunteers on hand to make sure your children are supervised and happy while you enjoy the service.**

* **10:00 a.m. Join us in the CaddyShak after the service for brunch and fellowship.**

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **Our potluck theme for Sunday is "Let's Eat Less Meat Together."** This potluck is sponsored by the Steering Committee for Sustainable Eating. Vegetarian and vegan contributions to serve eight are preferred.

* **Sign-Up for Our New Church Directory.** We are in the process of producing our new church directory. We have engaged Life Touch to photograph all members who wish to be in the 2016 Directory. This is a great way for new and long-standing members to have a visual reference guide to keep. Not only will you receive the guide for FREE, but you will also receive a FREE 8 x 10 portrait. You can even include your pets in the photo if you like! You can sign up on the church's website, but to make it even easier, church volunteers will be in the Lexow Wing and

Jefferson Room on **Sunday, October 11th**. We'll be armed with laptops so you can select dates starting in November that suit your schedule. Please support this important church activity. If you wish assistance signing up online, please call June Brasgalla at 379-6071.

* **Thanksgiving Potluck:** Each year we hold a potluck on Thanksgiving Day. If you would like to help plan this year's event, please come to the planning session on **Sunday, October 11**, at 11:45, in the West Wing. Contact Suzie Brucklacher with questions.

* **As a green sanctuary, we like to use ceramic mugs for our coffee hour.** That entails washing them, and it is difficult to find people willing to stay after church for half an hour to do that job. Please raise your hand if you are willing to do that job once a month, or even if you are willing to be a substitute from time to time. Contact June Brasgalla at juneb22@comcast.net.

FLEA MARKET NOVEMBER 14

* **Every year we sell out of Baked Goods at the Flea Market.** Please plan to bring a baked good with you to the Wine & Cheese on Friday evening, **November 13**, as a special contribution for the Flea Market's success. Please include a note card describing your contribution and its ingredients.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the new church members who joined last Sunday:

Joan A. Lovell

Louise C. McGrath

Nora Luna Richter

Barbara A. Sallee

Lori and Carl Sherman

Elizabeth and Donald Snively

ADULT PROGRAMS

* **I bet I know what you like doing. And I bet it is on the Newly Updated Adult Programs Listing of Classes.** **TODAY**, you can sign up in the courtyard for any of the great new classes. Look for the "Adult Programs Table" near the Jefferson Room and get your questions answered by some of the facilitators of classes. We are offering everything from Bird Watching, Cooking, Painting, Writing, Movies, Spanish, French, Smart Phones, Computers, Games, Personality Enneagram, Exercise, and Tai Chi to Qigong and Mah Jongg and on and on. Classes just added this week are on the back of the order of service. For the entire list, please come to the table or bulletin board. Coordinated by Adult Programs co-chairs, Nancy Saum and DeeAnna Dowdle. Questions, you can always call the facilitator of each class.

* **New addition to the Adult Program bulletin board outside of the Jefferson Room: UUers helping UUers debuts this week.** If you'd like to have a posting such as "ride needed" or "sitter needed" or "roommate wanted," please send your request to Dee Widder, DeanaWidder@gmail.com, who will post it.

* **Cooking with Friends** is so much fun and the plant-based recipes will warm your soul and tummy. So try it. Just sign up on the bulletin board or call DeeAnna and she will find a class that is convenient for you. Learning together is always better and sharing a kitchen with 4 or 6 people as you cook together for four consecutive weeks is marvelous. DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com 350-3571.

* ***Would you like to explore fascinating aspects of Chinese culture?***

Join us at any--or all--of these 4 Adult Programs beginning in October:

Chinese Brush Painting/Calligraphy with Deborah Thurber, 6 Mondays, 10 - 11:30 am.

Mah Jongg for Beginners with Louise Diana, 8 Tuesdays, 10 - 12 noon.

Qigong for Health & Vitality with Nancy Saum, 4 Mondays 1:30 - 2:30 pm and 8 Thursdays, 10 - 11 am.

Tai Chi for Health with Louise Diana, 10 Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 - 10 am.

* **The French Conversation Group** will resume meeting on Mondays from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Library. Anyone with a working knowledge of French is welcome. If interested, call Eva Frank, 925-4643 or send an email evita618@verizon.net.

* **Religious Literacy Dialog**

Are you interested in religious literacy issues? Then join us at our Wednesday dialogs from 4:00 to 6:00 pm usually meeting in the West Wing sponsored by Advocates for Religious Literacy. **On October 14, we will meet in the Library.** One item for discussion this week is *Amazing Grace in an Evidence-Requiring World*. 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.

CARING

* **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. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Sarasota Pride:** Sarasota's Pride Festival is scheduled for **Saturday October 17**, from noon to 6 PM, at J.D. Hamel Park. The park is located at 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota 34236, at the intersection of Main and Gulfstream in downtown Sarasota. Visit our UUCS Interweave table! Table hosts welcome for two-hour shifts - contact Ron Brown or sign up on Sunday.

* **Are you responsible for an upcoming church event that needs to be promoted to members or the general public?** Attend the next PR committee meeting, **Sunday, October 25**, 20 minutes after the service, in the West Wing. It's a great opportunity to inform the PR committee about your event details and brainstorm ideas for the best way to get the word out.

No need to RSVP. We'll see you there.

People who would like to help promote church events and activities are also welcome. We need your skills!

* **UU Artists Market on Sundays, November 1 and November 22 from 9 AM - 12:30 PM**

Church members and church friends with small handcrafted items such as clothing, glass items, jewelry, pottery, photography, and others, may request a table on which to display and sell their items.

Each artist/craftsperson must be responsible for their personal table set-up, security, manning and dismantling their work each Sunday.

Space is limited to the first six (6) requests. All questions and requests should be directed to Kathy Cook, kcook2@mac.com. A donation to UUCS of \$15 for one Sunday and \$25 for two Sundays is requested.

* **Partnership Hungarian-style Dinner, Friday, November 6, 5 - 7 p.m.**

Tickets are now on sale in the courtyard after service for our Partner Church dinner to support the Korond Church Education Fund. \$10 per person, \$20 per family. Of course, separate donations are always welcome. Entertainment will follow in the Sanctuary - a locally renowned male quartet - "Afternoon Delight."

* **Big musical coming to the church on November 8**

"I'm tired of living and afraid of dying

"While old man river he just keeps rolling along"

These lines from "Old Man River" keep telling us about the everlasting quandary of life. Now, this along with some of the greatest songs ever to come out of America's love affair with Broadway musicals will be presented in the church Sanctuary on **November 8** with the concert **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**, featuring two of Sarasota's best vocalists.

We'll provide more details as we get closer to the event but, if you're curious, check the home page of the church's website or go to beachsun.org/concerts/. Buy tickets in advance online at beachsun.org/concerts/tickets/. This is the 5th year of outstanding concerts at UUUS.

* **Call to all UUUS artists! The UUUS Arts Council will be hosting the annual "Members' Show" art exhibit in December**, just in time for the holidays! Each member is invited to submit up to two of their own artworks to be hung in the Lexow Wing Gallery. It is an all-media show, including sculpture, pottery, fabric art and more. Receiving of artworks will be on Friday, **December 4th** from 9am to 12 noon, followed by the opening reception on Sunday, **December 6th**. So wake up your inner artist, and show us your best work! Contact Cathy Cyrus at cyr603@yahoo.com with any questions.

OUR COMMITMENTS - SOCIAL JUSTICE

The UUUS 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, October 13** at noon in the Lexow Wing. New members, friends and visitors always welcome.

* **Chocolate Prices Going up.** Higher cocoa prices worldwide are going to impact our next order of Organic, Fair Trade chocolate bars. Now is the time to stock up. Still \$4 per bar at the Social Justice table.

* **Thank You for Sharing** \$3,257 with the congregation's Backpack program in September. The October 25th Share-the-Plate beneficiary will be the local Planned Parenthood's Youth Theatre.

* **Meals on Wheels: Kitchen Call!** On Tuesday mornings, occasionally substitutes are needed to volunteer in the kitchen. Come in at 8 a.m., scoop salad into cups, enjoy a coffee break then scoop vegetables into containers. We are finished by 10:15. For more information, contact Dee Widder at deanawidder@gmail.com or 377-9028.

* **Veg Recipes - For A Healthier Everything.** To encourage earth-healthy eating, the Sustainable Food Task Force posts meatless recipes on the Social Justice/Climate Change section of the church website. Check out "Reasons To Try Vegan" by Shakti Marquis - link on the recipe page.

* **Call for gun background checks!** Join the Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness every Thursday 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.

* **Help Refugees in Europe.** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee asks for immediate help in two ways: (1) sign the online petition asking Secretary of State Kerry to raise the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. to 200,000, (2) help the UUSC raise \$250,000 for immediate, direct assistance to refugees. www.uua.org

At our courtyard table today: Solar Energy and Voting Rights petitions; Organic, Fair Trade coffees, teas, chocolate bars, cocoa, 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, OCTOBER 18

*** 10:30 a.m. "Spiritual Repurposing," sermon by Rev. Sara Zimmerman**

The idea of "flux" manifests itself in world religions and philosophies which inspire us in our spiritual growth. If the 19th century American Transcendentalists had not taken up the idea of "flux" from their translations of Goethe, who himself found it in ancient Hindu texts, and if our faith had not been influenced by the Indian poet R. Tagore, well, chances are Unitarianism would look quite different. Now, how do you talk about something as intangible as "flux"? With metaphors. The ancient philosopher Heraclitus used the metaphor of a river. Rev. Zimmerman honors his metaphor and adds metaphors that she finds to be inherent in the repurposing of three religious sites, sites that she visited two years ago: the Elephanta Caves near Mumbai, India; Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey; and Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Rev. Dr. Sara E. Zimmerman retired in the fall of 2013 as the settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. A year ago she completed a curriculum entitled "Spirituality, Science and Healing" that was funded in part by a grant from the UU Funding Program. Sara is a proud grandmother to Henry, 12, and Helen, 9, who live in Milwaukee.

*** 10:30 a.m. Music: Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

*** 9:30 Forum: "The State of the Fourth Estate, What the Mainstream Media doesn't want you to know"**

Do you ever wonder about the decline in investigative journalism, why some stories/candidates get coverage and others don't, the effects of consolidation on the media and their fact-finding, possible government influence, the dumbing down of the stories presented and the rise of "infotainment" instead of hard news? Come join reporter Emily Le Coz for a discussion of these issues and more. Moderator, Ava Whaley; Presenter, Emily Le Coz.

Emily Le Coz is an investigative reporter for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. She moved to Florida from Mississippi, where she was a reporter for more than a decade. Born and raised in Wisconsin, she earned her journalism degree from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, and spent three years in France before starting her career.

Emily is a new member of the church with her husband Christopher Todd Sherman and their two children, Lucas and Todd. She enjoys food, travel and all things French.