



WEEKLY CONTACT

November 29, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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**** HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL ****

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.

SUNDAY EVENTS, NOVEMBER 29

UUCS SARASOTA

*** 10:30 a.m. "We Don't All Have to be Gryffindor," sermon by Tracie Barrett-Welser**

Unitarian Universalists are known for our commitment to social justice. But what if you're not a "get out on the front lines" kind of person? Join Tracie Barrett-Welser as she compares the types of people we need for successful movements to the four houses in *Harry Potter*. The best movements have balance, and let's learn how to use everyone's gifts to work effectively for justice.

Tracie Barrett-Welser lives in Winter Haven with her husband and teenage stepson. She has officially been a Unitarian Universalist for five years, but decided she's held the same beliefs for most of her life. She considers herself a UU evangelist, wanting to spread the "good news" of our liberal and welcoming faith. She is in her second year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago and is the ministerial intern at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County.

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

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Recent Attacks on Planned Parenthood: Are They Politically Motivated?"** A discussion of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida's recent merger, the organization's positive impact throughout the community, and the latest attacks (including the issue of fetal tissue research) and what Floridians can do to help. Presenter, Barbara Zdravecky, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida; Moderator, Fredric Sirasky.

Lakewood Ranch - Please note new time below:

*** 10:00 a.m. "Reflections of a UU in Training," sermon by Bill Payton**

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.

* **10:00 a.m. Music: Mindy Simmons, guitar and vocals**

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

* **We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship. Order off the menu. The breakfast special is only \$2.99.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

* **Sunday, November 29th - No RE Classes.**

Child care will be available for ages 10 and under.

* **Tree Trimming Party - Saturday, December 5th, 6-8:30 pm**

Get in the holiday spirit with our decorating extravaganza! We will be creating ornaments and decorating Christmas trees for the West Wing and the Sanctuary. There will be a Pot Luck dinner, so bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided. Everyone is invited, so join us for some seasonal fun.

* **Parent Night Out - Saturday, December 19th, 6-9:30 pm**

Drop the children off and have an evening to yourself. We'll be showing a holiday movie and sipping hot chocolate.

* **Christmas Eve Family Service - Thursday, December 24th, 5:30 pm**

A special service for our RE Families with carols and readings. Cookies and punch following service.

* **Our Whole Lives - The Owl Program, a sexuality education program for grades 7-9, is being offered in January.** The program provides adolescents with a comprehensive look at sexuality. A Parent Information Session will be held on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 in the West Wing.

FREETHINKERS

* **Freethinkers is seeking volunteers** to serve on the committee and help with monthly meetings. Our purpose is to provide speakers who will expand our knowledge and understanding of our society and ourselves; to think about social issues related to religion, ethics, morality or social justice.

Currently, there are only three members working on the series: Jim Wolfson, Steve and Carole Martin, and we need your help and your input.

If you are interested in helping to make this a reality for 2016, or if you have a recommendation for a speaker to consider, please contact Carole Martin at steveandcaroleusa@gmail.com or call [954-415-7679](tel:954-415-7679).

CARING

* **A Tribute from Charles and Lois Lee to honor Music Director Robert Lischetti, Pianist Don Bryn, and to show appreciation for the wonderful choir of UUCS.**

* **A Tribute from Alice and Jack Carden to thank Claudia Holtzclaw for her care of their dog while they were out of town.**

* **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.

* **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

* **Photographers for our Directory will be in the Lexow Wing beginning January 25th through the 29th.** We would like all members and friends to participate. Please sign up on our website. Scroll to January.

* **Weekly Contact**

The print edition of the Weekly Contact will be phased out, in keeping with our Green Sanctuary Program. Please make sure the office knows your preferred address for the Friday email. Next week, there will be no printed copies in the Order of Service and only a limited number of copies available at the Welcome Table for visitors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group will meet at LeAnh's Vietnamese Restaurant on Friday, December 4, at 1:00 pm.** The restaurant is located at 2901 N. Tamiami Trail. Non-vegetarians are welcome. For further information, or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at jeanw972@yahoo.com or via phone: 929-3845.

* **UU Artists! Are you ready for the UUCS Members Art Show?** The Arts Council will be receiving UUCS members' work on **Friday, December 4th** from 9 to 11:30 AM. Each member is invited to submit up to two of their own artworks to be exhibited in the Lexow Wing Gallery through the month of December. It is an all-media

show, including sculpture, pottery, fabric art and more. So don't be shy! Bring us your work on December 4th, and mark your calendar for the opening reception on **Sunday, December 6th**. Contact Cathy Cyrus at cyr603@yahoo.com with any questions.

*** Bishop John Shelby Spong will speak at our church on February 12 & 13!**

"Since God can no longer be conceived in theistic terms, it becomes nonsensical to seek to understand Jesus as the incarnation of the theistic deity. So, the Christology of the Ages is bankrupt."

That's the second of the twelve theses that Bishop Spong drew from his 1998 book, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*.

Why does he say that? Find out! Come hear him speak to us on February 12 and 13. Details, fee, and registration info are on our website <http://www.uucsarasota.com/spong.html>.

OUR COMMITMENTS - SOCIAL JUSTICE

The UUCS Social Justice (SJ) 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@uucsarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

*** Bring Your UU Service Committee Gift Envelope to the Social Justice table on Sunday.** Gifts of \$125 during the annual membership campaign will be 100% matched.

*** A Gift For Your Favorite Feminist!** Equal Exchange "Proud Mama" coffee lifts up women farmers who are becoming leaders and sending their children to school. Organic, Full City Roast with notes of caramel and chocolate. \$8 at the Social Justice table, while our supply lasts.

*** Climate Hope Presentations and Potluck** on December 7th starting at 6:30 p.m. at Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court. Join the discussion about climate change impacts and solutions. Flyer at the Social Justice table. Free.

*** Volunteers Needed - Annual AIDS Walk.** On December 6th starting at 8 a.m. at J D Hamel Park. Volunteers are needed to assist with registration and other functions. Call Hank Hueber at [941-587-1509](tel:941-587-1509).

*** Food Collection - Most Needed Items.** Here is what Bethesda House needs most for its clients: toilet paper, paper towels, and regular size cans of pork and beans and ravioli. Bring your donations to the collection box on any Sunday.

*** Tell Rep. Buchanan What You Think.** Call [202-225-5015](tel:202-225-5015) and tell Buchanan's staff person that you are a constituent who supports HR3411, a resolution to close the background check loophole for gun sales at gun shows. A quick phone call is more effective than email or an online petition signature. Every call is counted.

*** Sign the Solar Energy and Voting Rights Petitions.** Available at the social justice table. Florida voters only.

* **Backpack Volunteers.** Help pack food bags for low income students in Sarasota. For more information about our congregation's largest hunger project or to schedule your time, look for Don or Sara on Sunday or email dsslate@comcast.net.

* **Also at our courtyard table today:** 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, DECEMBER 6

UUCS SARASOTA - Two Services start again today!

* **9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "What Is Worship Like in this Congregation?" by Rev. Roger Fritts**

* **Music (both services): Dan Jordan, Violin; Don Bryn, Piano**

* **10:05 am Forum: "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion."** As America descends deeper into polarization and paralysis, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has done the seemingly impossible -- challenged conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to everyone on the political spectrum. A video and discussion. Presenter and Moderator, DeeAnna Dowdle.

Lakewood Ranch

* **10:00 a.m. "We Don't All Have to be Gryffindor," video sermon by Tracie Barrett-Welser**

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* **10:00 a.m. Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard**

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