



December 6, 2015

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

Another mass shooting. How do I respond? I send letters to my members of congress asking for gun control laws. I limit how much news I consume. I make an effort to be in the presence of nature and of beauty. I keep up my interactions with friends.

A religious community is one place to find friends and move beyond fear, anxiety and depression. On **December 6** we start two Sunday worship services at 9:00 and 11:00, a practice we will continue through Easter Sunday, **March 27** (except on December 27 when there will be only one service). Why two? We need two services because with one service this time of year we run out of chairs and parking spaces.

Which should you attend? Far be it from me to tell you what to do, but at 9 I am fresh, awake and more energetic. By 11 I am distracted because I am starting to think about lunch. I have also noticed in past years, the Unitarian Universalists who come at 9 are very friendly and happy, perhaps because they have had an easy time finding parking. It is up to you, but the 9:00 service is obviously the better of the two to attend.

See you Sunday.

SATURDAY EVENT, DECEMBER 5

GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

TREE TRIMMING PARTY

WHEN: SATURDAY, DEC 5TH

TIME: 6-8:30 PM

WHERE: UUCS - WEST WING

WHAT TO BRING: POTLUCK DISH TO SHARE

**Join us for
our intergenerational tree trimming party.
We'll be decorating the tree in the Sanctuary, creating decorations for
our West Wing holiday tree and sharing a pot luck dinner. Drinks will be provided.**

SUNDAY EVENTS, 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): Daniel Jordan, Violin; Don Bryn, Piano**

Daniel Jordan has been the concertmaster of the Sarasota Orchestra and violinist in the Sarasota String Quartet since 1998. He is also the Assistant Principal 2nd violinist of the Santa Fe Opera orchestra. During the 2001/02 season, while on sabbatical from Sarasota Orchestra, Daniel was the Assistant Principal 1st violinist of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in Kuala Lumpur. Daniel received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music as a student of Donald Weilerstein and David Updegraff. He is married to another violinist in the Sarasota Orchestra, Chung-Yon Hong; they have a young son named Spencer.

*** 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 SERMAN 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? Watch Tracie Barrett-Welser on video 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.

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

*** 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.**

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

*** Persecution of Unitarians in Burundi**

In recent days, Unitarians in Burundi have been the subject of religious persecution by their government. After the church building was ransacked, the Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana was arrested at gunpoint. He was later released from police custody and left the country.

[Click here](#) to watch a short interview with the Minister about Unitarianism in Burundi.

[Click here](#) to donate to an emergency ICUU fund to assist with legal fees and building repairs.

*** UUCS Members Art Exhibit** -- Opening Reception this Sunday at 12 noon, immediately following the second service, in the Lexow Wing Gallery. Be sure to stop in and experience the creativity of your fellow UUCS members in this exhibit hosted by the UUCS Arts Council. You never know who will have their art on display. You may be surprised! So stop in to say hello, meet the artists, see their work, and have a noon-time snack. The exhibit will be up through the month of December.

*** Please consider parking in the Cardinal Mooney High School lot** which provides extra parking space to us during the season, for your convenience. Drive into the main Cardinal Mooney entrance, then to the far southwest corner of their parking lot, closest to the church, and follow the signs to the church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

*** Our Whole Lives - Sexuality Education for Grades 7-9**

We will be offering OWL classes beginning in January 2016. The program provides adolescents a comprehensive look at sexuality. While providing facts about anatomy and human development, it also helps adolescents clarify their values and understand the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of sexuality. **A Parent Information Session is being held on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 in the West Wing.** If you know of any youth that would benefit from the program, please contact Susan Cook-Hallock, DRE, at dre@uusarasota.com or by phone at 371-4974, ext 7.

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

Last minute things to do? Need a little quiet time? The RE Committee is hosting a Parent Night Out just for you. We're planning a fun evening with a holiday movie, a spaghetti dinner, hot chocolate and crafts. Drop your child(ren) off and have an enjoyable night to yourself. Or, you can always stay and join in the festivities.

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

A special service for our RE Families. We'll start with a singing practice at 5:00 pm. Service will follow at 5:30 pm. Join us as we celebrate this special night with carols and readings. Everyone is needed to make this a true celebration. We will share cookies and punch following the service.

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, please contact Carole Martin at steveandcaroleusa@gmail.com or call 954-415-7679.

ADULT PROGRAMS

* **Moral Ground in the Changing Climate, an adult education class at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota Sundays 9-10 a.m., West Wing, January 10-February 28, 2016**

Co-leaders: Lea Hall and Roy Lauridsen

We know about the fires, floods, and famines, climate injustice, the sixth extinction. Knowing this, what kind of people do we want to be? What virtues do we cultivate?

Registration, limited to 25, is now open at the new Adult Programs bulletin board and by email to climate@uusarasota.org.

For more information, look for the announcement on our website's home page at www.uusarasota.com or go directly to the class's page at <http://www.uusarasota.com/moral-ground-in-the-changing-climate.html>

* **5-Star Movie** - Our next critically acclaimed movie will be shown in the Sanctuary on Friday, **December 11** at 6 p.m. *Lovely, Still* is about an elderly man (Martin Landau) who gets caught up in the excitement of a new love with a woman (Ellen Burstyn) who has moved in across the street. But things aren't quite what they seem to be. The movie is partly funny, partly poignant, and it will make you think about what it means to love someone.

* **Finish the year on a high note** - Come and ride with our UU Bicycle Group on Wednesday, **December 30** at 9:30 am. Watch for details about the location. Call or email Nancy Saum with your questions at 703-297-1749 or nancy.saum@gmail.com.

CARING

* **With sadness we announce the passing of Boris Pundick on November 25.** Boris and his late wife, Vivian, joined the church in the 1980's and were very active. Boris leaves two children, many grandchildren and his partner, Joyce Schneider. A memorial service will be held **Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 p.m.**

* **A Tribute from Charles and Lois Lee in memory of Jean Shoemaker, an amazing woman and gifted writer.**

* **Free Memory Screenings are available at Sarasota Memorial Hospital Memory Clinic.** Call 917-7197 for an appointment.

* **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

* **Picture taking time for the UU Directory.** You get a free 8x10 picture with the opportunity to buy more. Every four years we like to publish this Directory of members and friends. Please sign up on line at our website on the home page featuring the photo directory. Click to the **January 25 - 29** dates and set your appointment. If you

* **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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Next week, December 13, is Second Sunday Potluck.** Please bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged. All are welcome.

* **"Separation Anxiety: How Safe is True Religious Freedom?"** will be presented by Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, at our church for the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on **Sunday, January 24, 2016.**

* **John Shelby Spong is "Person of the Year" for Americans United for Separation of Church and State!**

AUSCS presented the award a few weeks ago at the AUSCS annual meeting in D.C., where Bishop Spong gave the keynote address. The AUSCS praised his "bold defense of separation of Church and State and [his] tenacious support of the rights of conscience for all." You can read the substance of his keynote address on his website at www.johnshelbyspong.com/2015/11/25/on-the-separation-of-church-and-state/.

We're very fortunate that Bishop Spong will speak to us on **February 12 and 13**. Please plan to attend.

Details, fee, and registration info are at www.uucsarasota.com/spong.html.

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@uucsarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Next Social Justice Meeting Tuesday, December 8.** New members and visitors are welcome at noon in the Lexow Wing. Email justice@uucsarasota.org for an agenda and future meeting announcements.

* **Bring Your UU Service Committee Membership Gift** to the Social Justice table on any Sunday in December. Membership gifts of \$125 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. Just a few left.

* **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 587-1509.

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

* **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 13

* **9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "How We Treat Our Children," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." -- Nelson Mandela

* **Music 9 a.m. Mindy Simmons, guitar, 11 a.m. Choir; Don Bryn, Piano**

* **10:05 am Forum: "Strategies for Containing the Cost of Health Care"**

Containing the cost of healthcare continues to be a major national objective as healthcare cost increases that exceed the Consumer Price Index impact the competitiveness of US industries, threaten the viability of government health benefit programs, and make care increasingly unaffordable for patients and consumers. In this session, we will review seven cost-containment strategies currently functioning in the market beginning with Medicare's "Bundled Payment" initiative. Discussion will focus on how these efforts are being supported or resisted by doctors, hospitals and insurance companies. Presenter, Dale Anderson.

Lakewood Ranch

* **10:00 a.m. "What Is Worship Like in this Congregation?" VIDEO SERMON by Rev. Roger Fritts**

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