



March 6, 2016

# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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

Perhaps you have always wanted to take a class at Harvard Divinity School, but you do not live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, you have not been admitted to the Div. School, and you do not have the money for tuition. No problem.

Harvard is offering a free on-line class about religion called "Religious Literacy: Traditions and Scriptures." It started March 1. Professor Diane Moore, Senior Lecturer and the Director of the Religious Literacy Project at Harvard University, expects about 46,000 people to participate in the course over the next six months. She says, "Join me and peers from around the world to embark on this journey to better understand religion in human affairs." So far, 21,475 people have signed up for the first section. Students live in 137 countries. Here is the website to enroll:

<https://www.edx.org/course/religious-literacy-traditions-scriptures-harvardx-hds-3221-1x>

If this really works, it will be amazing.

## **SATURDAY EVENT, MARCH 5**

**\* "Discovering UUCS" - A Newcomer Orientation**

**Saturday, March 5, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**UUCS - 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.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, MARCH 6**

**UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota**

**\* 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "From Ash Wednesday to Easter," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Unitarianism is rooted in puritanism and the puritans believed that "giving up something for Lent" was a foolish practice not explicitly commanded in the Bible. They believed Lent detracted from the importance of leading a

moral and upright life all year round. But have religious liberals really outgrown the need to "give something up" for a month?

\* **Music: 9:00 a.m. Mindy Simmons; 11:00 a.m. Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

\* **10:05 Forum: "Religion and Secularism: Navigating the Treacherous Sea of Words"**

In the modern era of instant communication, it is becoming more and more important that we understand each other. What one of us hears another say is frequently not what the other thought she said. This may be the primary challenge to effective communication between the so-called "secular" community and liberal religion. We will look closely at several words and phrases that tend to lead to the greatest confusion, and then discuss how we can authentically seek mutual understanding without forcing our respective definitions on one another. Presenter: John B. Hooper, President, Unitarian Universalist Humanist Association

\* **11 a.m. Religious Education (RE):**

**Nursery: Loving care for infants and toddlers is available during the 9 a.m. Service, Forum & 11 a.m. Service.**

**Child Care for children 10 and under is available during the 9 a.m. Service & Forum.**

**Classes are offered during the 11 a.m. service for children and youth.**

**Lakewood Ranch, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton 34202**

\***10:00 a.m. "The Great Adventure, Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" sermon by Rev. Connie Goodbread**

What are the foundations of our faith? What does the world need us to be? What is worth all this effort? What difference could I possibly make?

Connie is in her eleventh year as UUA Field Staff serving the Southern Region on the Congregational Life Staff Team. She has served as Field Staff in three regions of our Association. Connie has studied Healthy Congregation development and congregational conflict identification and transformation with Rev. Dr. Peter Steinke. Connie has also co-authored Your Faith Home - a UUA pamphlet.

\* **Music: Ed Kinder, keyboard**

\* **10:00 a.m. Nursery and Childcare provided**

\* **11:00 a.m. Food and Fellowship**

We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

\* **Child Care Volunteers Needed.** Our youngest UU's (infants through 3 year olds) are looking for volunteers. They need someone to come once a month for reading, playing and rocking. If you would like to provide some TLC, once a month, please see DRE, Susan Cook-Hallock following the service or contact her at [dre@uusarasota.org](mailto:dre@uusarasota.org) or call 371-4974, ext. 7.

\* **Food Donations - Sunday, March 6th** is our final day for collecting non-perishable food items for All Faiths Food Bank. A collection barrel will be situated outside the Sanctuary for your donations. Suggested items are canned tuna, chicken, soup or beans; peanut butter; granola bars; pasta and cereal. Please be generous.

\* **Tapestry of Faith** classes will be held on **Sunday, March 6th**. The Pk-1st graders will continue with the "Wonderful Welcome" curriculum and will be exploring the importance of learning together. The 2nd-5th Graders will be working from the "Signs of Our Faith, Being UU Everyday" curriculum. The Youth Group will be choosing the next world religion to explore from the curriculum "Neighboring Faiths."

\* **Join us on March 12th from 9:30 to 11:30 for a Volunteer Day at All Faiths Food Bank.** All children (age 4 & older), youth & adults are invited to join us as we help sort and pack food for delivery to our community food pantries. We will meet at All Faiths Food Bank, 8171 Blaikie Ct, Sarasota. Need transportation? Have a question? Contact DRE, Susan Cook-Hallock, at [dre@uusarasota.org](mailto:dre@uusarasota.org) or call 371-4974, ext 7 for more information. Please note, closed-toed shoes are required. Volunteer release forms for AFFB are available from Susan.

\* **Youth (age 12 & older) - The UU Church of Tampa** is holding a Beacon Con (Conference), **March 18-20**. Cons are a great way for our youth to connect with other UU youths outside of our congregation. Cons events promote community building, spirituality, youth leadership and social action. Interested in attending? See Susan for more information and required forms. Transportation will be provided.

## OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

\* **This Sunday, March 6th -- The Arts Council is pleased to present a new exhibit of watercolor paintings by nationally recognized artist Kris Parins.** Please join us for the opening reception at 12 noon, immediately following the second service in the Lexow Wing Gallery. Parins has exhibited nationally and internationally. While she paints a wide variety of subjects, from landscape to architecture, she utilizes the transparency of watercolor to capture the effect of strong sunlight, which is an ongoing theme in her paintings. Learn more about Kris and her work at [www.krisparins.com](http://www.krisparins.com), then join us in welcoming her to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota!

### \* ***When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: A St. Patrick's Day Celebration***

He's been called one of the true musical gems to come out of Ireland and on **Sunday, March 6**, at 3:00 p.m. vocalist/guitarist Paul Duffy will headline our largest concert of the year in "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," as a tribute to St. Patrick's Day.

Paul and his musical group will run through a repertoire of the greatest Irish folk songs ever sung, tunes like "Molly Malone," "Danny Boy," "Dirty Old Town," and "What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor." A gifted musician, Duffy plays the saxophone, trumpet, flute, guitar, keyboards, drums, bass, tin whistle and bagpipes. He attended the Dublin Conservatory of Music to learn to read music. His concerts at UUCS draw audiences from all over Southwest Florida. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

## CARING

\* **Our best wishes to Charlie Allman, our organ player and choir member, who had spinal surgery.**

Cards may be sent to his home at 4680 Sweetmeadow Circle, Sarasota 34238.

\* **Monthly newsletters from the Friendship Center and Sarasota Memorial Hospital** can be found in the Lexow Wing. Read for information of interest, plus you may also subscribe to the online issues.

\* **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](http://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](mailto: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

\* **Mah Jongg** - If you are a mah jongg player looking for a friendly game, you are welcome to join the group playing at the church on Tuesday mornings. For more information, call Louise Diana at 359-0628.

### \* **Get Together Dinners**

**Now is the time to sign up for our Spring Get Together Dinners.** The dates are April 23, May 28, and June 25. 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 **March 27**.

Carole Malone, John Brackett, Alice Carden, and Jeanie Craig

Get Together Dinners Committee

\* **The Directory of church members and friends** is now available at our website, [www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org). The latest list is dated February 16. You will find it easy to look up your friends' names and numbers. If you do not know the password to the Members Corner, please call the church office.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **ANNUAL MEETING: Save the Date! On Sunday, March 20th**, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service, we will hold the UUCS Annual Congregational Membership Meeting and the annual meeting of the UUCS Endowment Board. Items to be considered for vote by the members are: Election of Board of Trustees, members for both organizations, members of the UUCS Nominating Committee and the church's 2016-17 budget. There will be printed copies of the agenda and supporting materials available in the church office.

\* **Interweave Meeting:** Our monthly meeting will be held at Ron Brown's on **Saturday, March 12** at 11:00 a.m. Pot luck lunch to follow. Discussion and results of research regarding welcoming LGBT persons in long-term care facilities will continue. Contact Wilda at 924-0706 for details.

\* **Potluck Dinner for Singles on Friday, March 18** at 5:30 pm to be held at Dee Widder's home. Make new friends. Reservations accepted for the first 20 to request at [Deanawidder@gmail.com](mailto:Deanawidder@gmail.com) or 377-9028. If you are not receiving the singles group emails, please email Cathy Cyrus, [Cyr603@yahoo.com](mailto:Cyr603@yahoo.com) and ask her to add you to the list so you can join 30+ activities coordinated just for single people. To see our activities visit our Singles activities page at UUSarasota.org under the Adult Activities on the top-bar (<http://www.uucsarasota.com/uu-singles-for-friendship.html>) or visit our Bulletin Board.

\* **Women's Club meeting:** All UU women are invited to attend our next general meeting on Saturday morning, **March 19**, at 10 am, in the West Wing. Please bring a small snack to share, if you wish, and topics for future monthly meetings.

\* **See Sarasota and More- Tuesday, March 22, 9:30-2:30**  
**Venice Train Depot, Lunch at Flynn's On Venice Ave.**  
**and Visit to the Clyde Butcher Gallery**

On Tuesday, March 22, we will spend some time visiting two landmarks in nearby Venice. We will have a docent tour of the Historic Venice Train Depot. It is the only surviving passenger station in Sarasota County and for 31 years brought the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus to their winter headquarters in Venice. We will have a selection of lunch items at Flynn's on Venice Ave. After lunch we will visit the gallery of the famous American wilderness photographer Clyde Butcher. Clyde Butcher has been referred to as the Ansel Adams of the 21st century. He is a conservation advocate and his Florida landscape photography promotes awareness of the beauty of natural places. There is no charge for the Depot tour or Gallery visit. The inclusive cost for lunch is \$15.75 (Make checks payable to Kathy Cook). You may sign up, choose and pay for your lunch option on Sunday, March 6 and 13 in the courtyard after each service.

\* **Bicycle Group Ride to Venice Beach on Tuesday, March 22.** Join our friendly group of recreational bicycle riders this month. We'll meet at 9:30 am at the south end of the Legacy Trail (Venice train station parking

lot), ride to the beach, have an early lunch somewhere (to be decided), and then ride back to our cars. Perfect weather for a morning bike ride, before the summer heat arrives. For questions, contact Nancy Saum, 703-297-1749 or [nancy.saum@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.saum@gmail.com).

**\* MARK THESE DATES, FreeThinkers Series - Fridays at 10 a.m.:**

March 18 She-Roes of Africa, Debi Frock

April 1 Compassion & Choices, Winnie Downes

May 6 The Soul Traveler, A Field of Poetry, Kevin Mooney

June 3 Pending

Speakers and/or Topics Subject to Change

**\* Religious Literacy Dialog**

*Reimagining God: The Faith Journey of a Modern Heretic*, a book by Lloyd Geering, will be the theme of our weekly Wednesday dialogs from 3:30-5:00 pm in the West Wing. We also discuss contributions by individuals as well as articles from Westar Institute's *Fourth R Magazine* ([westarinstitute.org](http://westarinstitute.org)). 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.

**\* CALLING ALL UUCS AUTHORS**

We are holding an Authors Showcase book sale and signing on **Sunday, April 3**, 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., in the Lexow Wing. Any UUCS member or friend who has authored a book and would like to participate in this event is welcome. We encourage books on a variety of subjects and genres - fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books. The church receives 15% of the total sales collected for each book. The deadline for signing up is: **March 13**. For further information, please contact: Jim Keeney at [jim.keeney@gmail.com](mailto:jim.keeney@gmail.com) or 928-3378, or Lynne Singer at [lynnes500@gmail.com](mailto:lynnes500@gmail.com) or 726-7463.

**\* The 5-star Movie scheduled for Friday, March 11, has been cancelled.** We hope you will join us on **Friday, April 8** at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the next film:

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

**\* The Social Justice Committee meets Tuesday, March 8** at noon in the Lexow Wing. All are welcome. Special guest: Arlene Sweeting from the Peace Center with an update on the national campaign to overturn the Citizens United decision.

\* **RE Food Collection.** Support the kids in the Religious Education program who are collecting canned and packaged food for All Faiths Food Bank. Look for the barrel outside the church. Social Justice will resume food collection for Bethesda House the following week.

\* ***Making A Killing - Guns, Greed and the NRA*** will be shown at the church on Friday, March 25 at 2 p.m. Free admission. Visit the church website for more information.

\* **Backpack Volunteers** sign up now for April and May packing at the church. See Sara or Don Slate in the courtyard or email [dsslate@comcast.net](mailto:dsslate@comcast.net).

\* **Whole Bean Coffee, Chocolate Bars and other Fair Trade items**, which are not available at the Sunday table, are available by special order. It is easy to place one. Talk to Suzie Brucklacher or write to her at [justice@uusarasota.org](mailto:justice@uusarasota.org), subject line: Fair Trade Special Order. The table does have a fresh box of Fruit & Nut bars (\$1) and small chocolates (5/\$1).

\* **Join The Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun background checks on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue. Signs provided. Wear white. Bring a friend or make some new ones. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at [nadaevans@comcast.net](mailto:nadaevans@comcast.net).

\* **Sign the Solar Energy Petition.** The organizers of this petition have renewed efforts in 2016 to collect signatures. While this state constitutional amendment to expand solar energy in Florida will not appear on the November ballot, it will appear on the 2018 ballot with additional signatures. The petition is available to sign at the social justice table. Florida registered voters only.

**Also at our courtyard table today:** Organic Fair Trade coffees, teas, cocoa, olive oil; collection box for school points labels from food boxes; collection jug for non-recyclable plastic caps to benefit a local school.

## SUNDAY EVENTS, MARCH 13

### UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

\* **9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "The Religions of the Candidates," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

I believe in the separation of church and state, so I will not recommend a particular candidate. I do, however, believe that in making your decision about whom to support it is appropriate to learn about each candidate's religious beliefs. This should be one factor, but only one among many that will inform your decision.

\* **Music: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Julie Cornwall, cello; Don Bryn, piano**

\* **10:05 Forum: "Essentialist Moral Theology vs. Situational Ethics"**

Following their moral theology, conservative Roman Catholics and Evangelicals label actions either virtuous or evil by definition, regardless of the situation. This leads to support of all sorts of governmental legalistic systems which

attempt to describe right from wrong. How do these laws work for issues such as artificial contraception, abortion, euthanasia or the patient's right to die, homosexuality, etc.? Presenter, Father John Macort.

Father John Macort has degrees from Haverford College, St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, England, Master degrees from The Episcopal Theological School at Harvard University and LaSalle University, and other work in psychology and therapy. He was Associate Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Thomas Episcopal Church in suburban Philadelphia, Lecturer at LaSalle University in Philadelphia (and community colleges in Connecticut and Florida,) Associate Rector and Acting Rector at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the Sea in Palm Beach, Florida, Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Madison, Connecticut. He was a licensed therapist. He is an Episcopal priest, a lapsed Roman Catholic Eucharistic Minister, an occasional Quaker, Unitarian and agnostic. Published books: *Ceremonial for Eucharistic Worship*, *A Reasonable Covenant*, "Basic Approaches to Christian Moral Theology" (booklet) and *The Curse of a Questioning Mind*.

**Lakewood Ranch, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton 34202**

\* **10:00 a.m. video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**, Title to be determined

\* **Music: Tony Horowitz and Claudia Holmes, Recorders**

\* **10:00 a.m. Nursery and Childcare provided**

\* **11:00 a.m. Food and Fellowship**

We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship. Order off the menu.