



March 13, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS

I was on Sarasota ABC 7 TV the evening of March 7, to talk about the "Pastor Protection Act." This law confirms what is already the case under the first amendment. Clergy decide whom they are willing to marry and cannot be forced to officiate at any wedding.

Carole Kay from the Christian Coalition explained that behind this law is a desire to make it legal, on the grounds of freedom of religion, for businesses to refuse services to gay couples who are getting married. I replied that Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King spent their wedding night in the back room of an African American funeral parlor because the local hotels of Marion, Georgia refused to rent rooms to blacks. Because of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, today businesses do not have a religious right to refuse service to people because of skin color. In the same way, I argued, wedding cake bakers and others should not have a religious right to discriminate against gay couples.

Before we went on the air, I expressed surprise to Carole that the Christian Coalition still existed. "We have a local chapter, although it is very small," she told me. She gave me her business card for the travel service she runs. I am tempted to pass it on to all my gay friends.

SATURDAY EVENT, MARCH 12

* **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

SUNDAY EVENTS, MARCH 13

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, IS THE BEGINNING OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME. REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR.

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**

Ms. Cornwall began her career in 1973 with the Elgin Symphony under conductor Margaret Hillis who was the only woman who had ever conducted the Chicago Symphony.

Julie has performed with the Naples Philharmonic, Sarasota Orchestra, the Viennese Strauss Symphony of the Americas, Venice Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic in Indiana, Rockford Symphony in Illinois, and the Rock-River Philharmonic in Wisconsin.

*** 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. "From Ash Wednesday to Easter," video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

*** 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

* **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 or call 371-4974, ext. 7 for more information. Please note, closed-toed shoes are required.

* **Join us on Sunday, March 13th for a special art project.** Nanette Vogler (Ella & Zoran's mom) will be showing us how to do Suminagashi, the Japanese art of marbling paper. Please dress in clothes which can get messy.

* **Youth (age 12 & older) - The UU Church of Tampa is holding a Beacon Con, March 18-20.** Cons are a great way for our youth to connect with other UU youths outside of our congregation. Con 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.

NEW MEMBERS

* **Please welcome the new members who joined last week:**

John Clark

Robyne Mestel

Margaret Simmons

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

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

* **Robert Lischetti, our choir director and Don Bryn, our pianist, will be performing in concert on Sunday, March 13** at 4 p.m. for the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. They will be performing "Music from Broadway and The American Song Book." Tickets are \$15. The concert will be held in the Sanctuary of Unity Hall on 3023 Proctor Road.

CARING

* **Former member Betty Zavon has passed away in Ohio.** A memorial service will be held at a later date.

* **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 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

* **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. 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. 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

* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 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.

* **Freethinkers - What on Earth is a She-Roe?**

Find out **Friday, March 18th** at 10 a.m. when FreeThinkers presents "Past & Present Day She-Roes of Africa." Deborah Frock introduces us to Ghanaian Mothers' Hope and the women who have become strong, passionate leaders in Africa's past and present.

Join us in UUCS sanctuary to honor Women's History Month.

* **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 are printed copies of the agenda and supporting materials available in the church office.

*** The Nominating Committee, chaired by Catherine Bonner, present the following candidates:**

Officers of the Board of Trustees

Charles Lee, President

Ward Pallotta, Vice President

Bill Payton, Treasurer

John Yoder, Secretary

New Members of the Board

Mary Lou Keller

Ava Whaley

Dale Anderson

Continuing members of the Board

Diane Happy

Lynda Hill

Nancy Thomas

New Nominating Committee Members

Tony Dalsimer

Mary Fran Raynault

Donna Allman

Continuing Members of the Nominating Committee

Joanne Curtis

Dick Happy

Judi Hennard

Dee Widder

*** 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 or 377-9028. If you are not receiving the singles group emails, please email Cathy Cyrus, 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.

*** 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). 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.

*** 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 or 928-3378, or Lynne Singer at lynnes500@gmail.com or 726-7463.

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 or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Share-the-Plate Thank You.** Two weeks ago the February Share-the-Plate collection went to the congregation's largest project addressing homelessness - Transition House. Thank you for gifts totaling \$1,992! In two weeks, Mental Health Community Centers will receive our March gifts.

* **Thank You, Don and Sara Slate** for leading the Backpack program this year. On March 1st the Sarasota County School Board presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation which recognized our church partnership with Wilkinson Elementary and All Faiths Food Bank. Photo on the church home page.

* **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.

* ***Making A Killing - Guns, Greed and the NRA.*** This film will be shown in the church on **Friday, March 25th** at 2 p.m. Free admission. More information on the church home page.

* **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.

* **Sign the Solar Energy Petition.** This state constitutional amendment to expand solar energy in Florida is planned for the 2018 ballot. If you have not signed it, the petition is available at the social justice table. Florida registered voters only.

* **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, subject line: Fair Trade Special Order. The table does have Fruit & Nut bars (\$1) and small chocolates (5/\$1). Great with a cup of coffee!

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 20

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting follows the 11 a.m. service

*** 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "The Dublin Unitarians," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

In August I spent a Sunday morning attending worship at the Dublin Unitarian Church and in September I had a two-hour lunch with the minister. The Sunday after St Patrick's Day, the sermon will explore the beliefs of Irish Unitarians.

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

*** 10:05 Forum: "Racial Injustice: Thinking Beyond Affirmative Action to Reconciliation"**

Do we need a South African-type Truth and Reconciliation Commission to force us to re-examine and acknowledge the racial injustice that persists today? Would police body cameras, for example, be a form of reparations? Do we need to give up some things we hold dear in order to right past and continuing wrongs? Presenter, Marie Keeney; Moderator, Don Diddams.

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

*** 10:00 a.m. video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts, "Welcome to Sarasota, Fellow Baby Boomers!"**

People born between the years 1946 and 1964, ranging in age between 51 and 70 are retiring. Some are retiring to Sarasota. Some are joining our church! This sermon, by our Baby Boomer minister, is a way of saying welcome.

*** Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard; 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.