



August 28, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS

I arrived at SRQ at 11:10 P.M. Tuesday night on the only direct flight from Washington, D.C. to Sarasota. I am happy to be back near the beach after a summer of visiting friends and family in the hot northeast. Mostly I hung around people who talked about topics other than politics or sports, although I did attend a couple of political events and several religious events.

For example, I was on the Washington Mall on July 16, when thousands of evangelicals gathered around the Washington Monument in 93-degree heat to affirm their belief in Jesus. One reporter wrote, "Possibly an entire Bible's worth of verses was written on the T-shirts in the crowd." Because it was so hot, instead of attending the event I headed for the National Gallery of Art, which has many religious paintings, an excellent restaurant, and air conditioning. After a day at the museums, my wife and I headed home on the metro, crowded with evangelicals. The Jesus rally, scheduled to last from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., ended just after 4:00 p.m. because large numbers of people passed out in the heat and overwhelmed emergency medical technicians.

This close encounter with baking, sweaty Christians in the Washington Metro, reminded me of a conversation I once had with an Evangelical in a Laundromat. It will be the subject of my sermon Sunday.

TOILETRY COLLECTION FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

The Religious Education Program is collecting toiletries for Harvest House Family Haven. The 'Haven' provides emergency housing and case management to families in a housing crisis. They work to get families off the streets, out of their cars and into a safe and stable environment.

We can help by providing toiletries that the families need.

Please donate items such as diapers, toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, body wash, soap and body lotion. A collection box will be placed outside the Sanctuary and the West Wing for the items. We will be collecting through August. Thank you for your help.

SUNDAY EVENTS, AUGUST 28

*** 10:30 a.m. What Do I Believe? - Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

I was talking with an Evangelical Christian. He was very certain about the truth. He believed in the Bible as the sole source of religious authority, in salvation through conversion and in the importance of public witness of his faith. His firm convictions stimulated me to think about what I firmly believe.

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "Mothers Helping Mothers, Responding to the Needs of the Poorest Families in our Community."** What's being done for families that have nothing and otherwise fall between the cracks? Presenter, Cheri Devries, President of the board of Mothers Helping Mothers. Moderator, DeeAnna Dowdle.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

* **Nursery:** Loving care for infants and toddlers is available during the 10:30 a.m. Service.

* **RE Classes:** A religious education program is available for children & youth during the 10:30 a.m. Service.

* **Sunday, August 28th – Social Justice Project**

The children and youth will be working together to make no-sew fleece blankets to be donated to our local homeless shelter for families. Parents/guardians are also invited to help make the blankets. Once finished, the comforters will be donated to Harvest House Family Haven, along with toiletries donated by the congregation.

Our Open House last week was a great success. The waterslide was a big hit with all the children (and some of the adults). It was a great day for family fun and fellowship. We look forward to seeing some of the new faces that were at the open house in the near future in our religious education program. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day a success.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

Today's Share-the-Plate offering will support UnidosNow, the Latino community's Sarasota-Manatee resource center which provides comprehensive financial education and empowerment workshops for families and a highly regarded college-prep program for low income youth.

UnidosNow is elevating the quality of life of the Latino/Hispanic community, and in doing so, the quality of life of the entire community. Recognized for collaborative community partnerships, UnidosNow was a 2014 finalist for the PBS/WEDU Be More Informed Award.

Your gift today will help 300 students get closer to their college and career dreams in the coming year.

CARING

* **Interested in communal living?** Check the Adult Program board next to the Jefferson Room for information.

* **Are you caring for someone with dementia?** The Pines of Sarasota Education & Training Institute has produced DVDs, featuring (Alzheimer's and dementia expert) Teepa Snow, that are a great resource for caregivers. These DVDs contain important information and training to help you care for your loved one. Topics include:

- It's All in Your Approach
- In-Home Dementia Care: Tips & Techniques
- Improving Communications in Dementia Care
- The Inevitable Hospital Stay
- End of Life Care & Letting Go

The DVDs are available at all Sarasota County Libraries, Senior Friendship Centers, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Doctors Hospital of Sarasota and Tidewell Hospice.

* **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. News of our congregation can also be found at Caring in the Members Corner.

* **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

* **A Tribute from Helene Reeder in gratitude for all the cards and good wishes she received during her illness.**

* **An important part of our church community is our 'meet and greet'.** Every Sunday we provide juice and cookies for our guests. We are in need of volunteers to take one Sunday a month to fulfill this job. If you can help out, please contact June Brasgalla at juneb22@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group will meet at Simon's Coffee House, 5900 S. Tamiami Trail, on Friday, September 2nd, at 1:00 pm.** Non-vegetarians are welcome. However, we ask that everyone have a "vegetarian" lunch. For further information, or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at jeanw972@yahoo.com or via phone: [941-929-3845](tel:941-929-3845).

* **The UUCS Arts Council will meet at 1:00 pm Saturday, September 3rd in the Lexow Wing Gallery.** We invite UUCS members and friends with an interest in the arts to join us. The mission of the UUCS Arts Council is to provide members and friends of the Church avenues for artistic expression and appreciation. We meet on the first Saturday of each month from September through May, share our ideas and art related experiences, and manage the art exhibits in the Lexow Wing Gallery. For more information, contact our Chair, Joan Boyce at joanboyce321@gmail.com , or visit the Lexow Wing Gallery page on the UUCS website (<http://www.uucsarasota.com/art-gallery-in-lexow-wing.html>). We hope to see a few new faces on September 3rd!

*** The UUCS Arts Council invites you:**

Please take a moment this Sunday for a last look at Elayn Leopold's "Urban Dwellers" in the Lexow Wing Gallery. These haunting portraits of homelessness will be coming down next week for the installation of a new exhibit. Watch for that new exhibit on Sunday, September 4th!

*** Cinema Conversations - Wednesday, September 7th, at 7pm in the Lexow Wing.** Our topic will be "Indignation". We'll follow a young Jewish man from Newark, NJ, on a journey into uncharted territory as he attends a predominantly Christian College in Ohio during the Korean War. Join us for a compelling discussion.

*** Summer Comedy**

We will be showing the last in our series of 5-star movies on Friday, September 9th, at 7 pm in the sanctuary. *Leap of Faith* is about a sham evangelist (Steve Martin) who gets stuck in a small town and decides to hold a revival. It changes his life. Martin's performance is remarkable and you will leave with a smile and plenty to think about. Come join us!

*** "Discovering UUCS" – A Newcomer Orientation in the Lexow Wing
Saturday, September 24; 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

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. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center!

*** If a class is being cancelled or rescheduled, please inform the office so our church Calendar can be kept up to date. Thank you.**

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 each month (except July), join the mailing list at justice@uusarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

*** Used Bicycles for Turning Points.** El Parent will pick up your old or used bicycle and deliver it to the bicycle repair shop at Turning Points, the one stop social service center in Bradenton. Contact El at elparentjekp@gmail.com or [813-507-8735](tel:813-507-8735).

*** You Can Help Flood Victims in Louisiana.** Go to the homepage of the church website for more information. Thank you!

*** Support Solar, Vote YES on 4: Vote YES for Amendment 4 on the August 30 primary ballot to prevent property tax increases on businesses that install solar panels.** More information and wallet cards at the social justice table. Pick up a YARD SIGN at the social justice table.

* **Have You Signed The Petitions? To: (1) Restore Felon Voting Rights in Florida, (2) Ban Fracking in Florida, (3) Expand Solar in Florida, (4) Protect the Sarasota city park at Beneva and Fruitville (city residents only).** All are at the Social Justice table.

* **Backpack Volunteer Signup.** Backpack is our child hunger project. For more information, see Sara or Don at the Backpack table on Sunday or email dsslate@comcast.net.

* **Bethesda House Pantry** -- Every Sunday we collect single serving cans (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries and paper products (TP and towels). Look for the donation bin outside the sanctuary.

* **Produce Shopping Guide.** Pick up your 2-sided wallet card at the social justice table. Carry it when you shop. Take an extra for a friend.

* **Americans United - Movie, Sept. 17. "First Freedom – The Fight for Religious Liberty" at 7:30 pm, Jefferson Room.** Free admission. Mark your calendar.

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. For Fair Trade special orders, contact Suzie Brucklacher at justice@uusarasota.org, subject line Fair Trade Special Order.

SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 4

* **10:30 a.m. - Religious Ethics and Political Campaigns - Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Does the Golden Rule provide an ethical rule for political campaigns?

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: World Wide Disruptors of 2016 thru 2030**

How will these disruptors change your everyday life and the power balance of nations? *Uber* is testing driverless cars in Pennsylvania. Road tests are being conducted in India and China. Worldwide, at least 18 companies are developing autonomous cars, including BMW, Audi and Toyota. Will you need to own a car in 2020? Solar energy's low cost will make it the primary fuel of the world by 2030. How will the power shift from oil rich nations to nations rich in technology affect the United States? Speaker DeeAnna Dowdle, Moderator Don Diddams.