



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota
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The Contact

Weekly Newsletter of UUCS

February 23, 2023



From the Heart of the Minister

Rev. Jay Wolin

“We Can Do More”

The theme of this year’s stewardship campaign is “We Can Do More.”

We can do more, but not just for more’s sake. It is important to consider why we do what we do. Let us realize that those who are still here and who came before us, have built a wonderful church. We are the largest Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Florida.

We have a strong foundation. The foundation of a long history in Sarasota:

- a history of raising families together, (this church was started by young families.)
- a history of making connections and building relationships,
- a history of offering liberal religious education and exploration,
- a history of working on important social justice issues.

We should not just keep it for ourselves. We should share what we have with other like-valued people. How often have we heard from people, “I wish I had known about Unitarian Universalism years ago.”

Its never too late to do more. With your help, we can do more to better communicate our events and our values internally and externally. Our spiritual and religious message of love, compassion and justice are needed by many in the larger community. [READ MORE](#)

Cont’d on page 8

Table of Contents

[This Sunday](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Social Justice News](#)

[Green Team News](#)

[Help Wanted](#)

[Among Ourselves](#)

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK



**Our 2023-2024
Stewardship Campaign is underway!**

**[Click Here](#)
to learn more and make a Pledge.**



**DINNER, DANCE AND KARAOKE NIGHT
SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH
5-9PM in the Lexow Wing**

Do you love to Dance? Enjoy a Party?

Like to Karaoke? Then join us for this event in the Lexow Wing!

We'll have a pasta bar and salads for dinner for the low cost of \$5. [Sign-up here!](#) Let us know what kind of music you want to hear on your RSVP or bring a list to the Party. We'll have line dancing, swing, slow dances, and everything in-between. BYOB

This Sunday, February 26, 2023

TWO SERVICES AT 10:00 & 11:30

Both Sunday services *in the Sanctuary* and on YouTube accessible via <https://www.uucsarasota.com/>.



Chop Wood, Carry Water

Sermon by Rev. Jay Wolin

Just saying the word spirituality can conjure up various images and meaning for different people. I will explore the meaning of spirituality and how spiritual practices can be integrated into your everyday life. [Read more](#)

Music: Fred Sirasky, Clarinet, Don Bryn, piano

Recorded Sunday Services are available after the Service via our website on the homepage until Tuesday and then on our [Virtual Church Page](#) after Tuesday.

FORUM AT 10:00am

IN PERSON IN THE REEB ROOM ONLY THIS SUNDAY!!



The Ku Klux Klan and the Tragedies of Lynching

Presenter, Dr. James H. Madison.

An emeritus professor of history at Indiana University and the author of books including *A Lynching in the Heartland* and *The Ku Klux Klan in the Heartland* will discuss the challenges of racial segregation and discrimination over the last two centuries, particularly lynching and the Ku Klux Klan and its successors.

[Click here to learn more about our Forum program.](#)

Religious Education for Children and Youth



What do You Really Love?

All Children and Youth start in the Service for the Time for All Ages at our 10am and 11:30am Services before heading to their classes.

[Click Here for more information](#)

NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED AT EACH SERVICE FOR INFANTS TO 5YRS

Questions? Contact Catherine Bonner at catherinebuucs@gmail.com

[Sign-up for our Religious Education Newsletter.](#)



11:00 & 12:30 COFFEE HOURS IN THE COURTYARD

More this Sunday, February 26, 2023



Photo on Freepik

Interweave Rainbow Potluck Luncheon 1:30pm in the Reeb Room

Interweave Suncoast, our LGBTQ+ advocacy group, is meeting to learn more from Michael Fox on the progress to date on the Welcoming Congregation renewal process and hear Nicholas Machuca, a representative from Equality Florida on statewide issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

Yolanda Stevens will be the host. For more information and to RSVP, contact Yolanda at 860-839-4622, armanda001@gmail.com.



Reeb Room

3pm

The Mindfulness-Based Human Flourishing group will explore the role of mindfulness practice as a key to flourishing in every aspect of human life. [Read more...](#)



Live Zen Buddhism via Zoom at 7:00 pm:

A group focusing on "The Study and Practice of Zen" meets every Sunday evening at 7 pm via Zoom. [Read more...](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our very accomplished UUCS pianist (and interim Music Director) Don Bryn is inviting all interested members (and visitors too) who love to sing to join the choir for a limited engagement.

The church choir will be preparing a special musical program (featuring a Vivaldi anthem) for Easter and welcomes you to join in for the joy of singing in a large, enthusiastic group. We'll practice together at the

church on 4 successive Thursday evenings beginning March 16, culminating in our performance together April 9. This is a no obligation opportunity to experience the excitement of singing in the choir. We hope you'll consider joining us permanently, but will look forward to singing with you, even if just for Easter.

Let me know if this is something you would like to do. I'll keep you posted on all the particulars. I hope several of you will jump in and stretch into this new musical venue. I promise you it will be a journey to remember.....and fun!

John Yoder iamjohnyoder@gmail.com

Town Hall Meeting



**SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH 12:45PM, SANCTUARY
IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM**



SACReD

Spiritual Alliance of Communities
for Reproductive Dignity

Are you looking to join the fight for Reproductive Rights?

Join Rev. Jay and our Reproductive Rights Team for a special 7-week study program on Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm either in person in the Lexow Wing or on Zoom.

[Click Here to learn more.](#)

To get the zoom link, [SIGN-UP HERE.](#)



Many thanks to all who participated in the Share the Plate for UUSC in the month of February!

Your generosity enabled us to send a check to the the UU Service Committee in the amount of \$2192.00! Since this social justice associate of the Unitarian Universalist Association relies upon congregational support for its funding, this gift from UUCS will be a welcome one. We can be proud of the increase this year and the hope that each year we can top our previous contribution so they can continue all the great work they do around the globe to make life just a little bit better for so many. If you haven't renewed your membership or have not yet joined, why not do that today? You can go to UUSC.org to do so. Thanks again!



Eight Chalice Groups are active this season, each with up to 10 members. If you are interested in joining a group, there are openings for three more people in groups that are beginning their 8-week cycle in mid-March:

- a Zoom group meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday at 1:30 PM and has room for one more member
- an in-person group meets at church on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 2 PM and has room for two more members.

Call Catherine Dente to join one of these groups 941-921-1598 or [email SGM.UUCS3975@gmail.com](mailto:email.SGM.UUCS3975@gmail.com)

Arts Council – Art Exhibit



"Small Works" by Gail Coppock

On exhibit from February 19 through March 16. Don't miss this beautiful exhibit of jewelry and other "Small Works" by Gail Coppock., a member of our congregation.

[Click or tap here to learn and see more.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED



If you vote in FL by mail thanks to Gov. DeSantis and the FL Senate Bill 90 we must all now request new mail-in ballots for every election cycle, which means if you want to vote by mail this year and beyond you must make a new request for mail-in ballots.

Here is what to do: Send a simple one-line email to dmineo@sarasotavotes.gov You simply say you are already a registered Florida voter receiving mail-in ballots, and you would like to continue to receive mail-in ballots for all upcoming elections.



IS YOUR BIO in BREEZE. our online member's directory?

You have up to 1000 characters to tell everyone about you, and not just where you went to school or worked but a bit about what you are passionate about or do for hobbies too! But getting bio into Breeze is a bit of a bear so SEND it to breezeuucs@gmail.com and we will put it in for you.

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Friday, 5:00 – 6:00

Happy Hour is a time when members get together on Zoom to have fun chatting. **Join us.** No sign up necessary. You will receive the Zoom invitation with the link and meeting ID the day before.



CARING AND PASTORAL CARE

Caring and Pastoral Care Team members are available to help in a variety of ways. Look for **Caring Team** on their name tag. Please be in touch if you or someone you know in the UUCS community has a need, such as going in for surgery, or just to talk.

Contact Bob Arevalo at robertarevalo55@gmail.com or 815-332-3343



Please consider **Parking in the Cardinal Mooney lot** and take a lovely walk to the Church campus. It helps with our traffic flow on site.

Want to become a Member? On the first Sunday of each month after the Service, we invite those wanting to become members to join us in the Minister's office to sign the member book. For more information, visit our Welcome Table.



TRIBUTE FUND Consider making a **Tribute Fund** donation in honor of a member, friend, family member, or pet to acknowledge a good deed or a birthday or a sorrow. The donations will support our **Endowment Fund**. It will be announced in the Contact. Send your check, marked Tribute, to UUCS 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota 34232.

UPCOMING EVENTS----- [\(click here for the full church calendar\)](#)

March 5th Sunday Topics:

SERVICE at 10:00am and 11:30am



The Path of Vulnerability

By Rev. Jay Wolin

Often in our society, vulnerability is seen as a weakness. I would like to explore how vulnerability can be a spiritual path that can lead to growth. community.

Music: Choir

FORUM AT 10AM.

The Right Wing Assault on Higher Education

From the Governor to the Legislature to potential university board members, Florida colleges and universities are the targets of the right wing. Our speaker will bring us up to date.

Presenter, Dale Anderson; Moderator, Jane Rose; Zoom Host, Terri Holsinger



Religious Education...The Path of Vulnerability



All Children and Youth will start in the Service for the Time for All Ages before heading to classes.

Our 10:00am offering will be a light lesson with art/activities.

Our 11:30 Service offering will be our traditional RE classes where we will discuss through story/art/activity the lesson of the day.

Photo by [Annie Spratt](#) on [Unsplash](#)

[LEARN MORE](#) about our upcoming services

The Women's Book Group will meet on Friday, February 24th at 1 pm by zoom. We will discuss the book Apeirgon by Colum McCann.

Contact Sharon Seager. seagersrq@gmail.com for more Info.



SACReD
Spiritual Alliance of Communities
for Reproductive Dignity

Wednesday, March 1st
6:30-8pm, Lexow Wing,
In-Person and on Zoom

The second of a 7 session study program on reproductive health, rights and justice being studied by progressive congregations across the country which are forming a network of SACReD congregations to speak out for reproductive dignity. Rev. Jay, Sharron Howard and Kate Lannamann will lead the study of the SACReD curriculum. Learn more about SACReD [here](#) and [here](#). [Sign-up here](#) to get the zoom link.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED



TECHNOLOGY LUNCH AND LEARN:

Sunday, MARCH 5th

Our next session of help with all your technology questions will be on Sunday, February 5 at 12:45 (after the second service). Come with your device and questions. If possible, email Catherinebuucs@gmail.com with your questions in



Half-Day of Mindfulness Meditations

March 5, 2023 from 2 pm until 6 pm

Reeb Room, Unitarian Universalist Church

Please join us in practicing, and cultivating mindfulness practices to help lead a more meaningful, peaceful, and flourishing life.

The meeting will consist of a half-day of silent mindfulness sitting and walking meditations. If anyone has difficulties sitting or walking for this long, they are welcome to get up and walk or sit on their own. You can also leave early. It is important to be kind and caring for yourself. Please bring water or something else to drink. We hope to see you there. Questions: MindfulnessBHF Sarasota@gmail.com



The next UU Bike Ride is Wednesday, March 8, starting at 10am at the Historic Venice Train Depot. The ride is along the Venice Intercoastal waterway with lunch afterwards outside at the Old Salty Dog in Venice. Please contact Chris Sloane (sloaneclans@aol.com) if you intend to join in.

DEATH CAFÉ

Saturday, March 18th at 2pm- 4pm

Reeb Room, Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota



On Saturday, March 18, at 2 PM, UU is hosting a Death Cafe, in our Reeb Room from 2-4 PM. This is an open, friendly, informal and thought-provoking discussion about death, dying, funerals, and any other related topic that comes to mind.

Risa Marlen, LCSW and a Life Cycle Celebrant will be facilitating the discussion. Snacks and beverages provided.

All UU members, friends and guests are welcome.

A \$5.00 contribution is requested per person. This goes back to UU for the use of the room.

Contact Risa for any question, and to RSVP

risa685@gmail.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS!! by Sharron Howard, Chair

The **Social Justice Committee** meets the second Tuesday of each month (except July) at noon. We are meeting in person (Reeb Room) and on Zoom. For Zoom info contact Sharron Howard at sjh9495@gmail.com. All are welcome to join us.

Visit our table in the Courtyard on Sunday to learn how you can support our Social Justice activities.

GREEN TEAM NEWS!! by Mary Ann Bowie, Chair

Everyone please stop by the Green Team Table to pick up a copy of our partnership soil guide, "Help The Soil Live Again!" or [Click Here](#) to get a printable copy.

Clean and healthy water is good for Florida. Please sign the petition at this website and do your part. FloridaRighttoCleanWater.org

Continued from Heart of the Minister on page 1

During Covid, like many Congregations, we lost approximately 25% of our membership. Conversely, since we reopened for in-person events, the activity of our committees and teams has grown exponentially. Ours is a shared ministry, where we work together as a community to determine our mission and values. We do not get directives from a bishop or an ancient book. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) offers guidance and religious resources, but we get no financial support from them. In fact, we pay dues to support the UUA.

All of us are working together, supporting, and being supported by each other.

We as a church, and as a religion can continue do great things together.

We can do more together than we can ever do alone.

So now is the time to stand together.

Let us build upon this foundation.

With your help we can do more.

Let us continue building a beloved community:

- where all people are welcome,
- where all people will have the opportunity to build relationships,
- where all people have the opportunity to participate.

But to do this, we need you.

We need your participation.

We need your leadership.

We need your love.

We need your generosity.

We value this Church, all its members, and the values we share.

It is a significant part of our lives.

The stewardship team asked you to consider giving 20% more this year.

Please submit your pledge card [\(or follow this link to conveniently fill out an online pledge form\)](#) to support our programs that demonstrate our values.

I know with your help, we can and we will do more.

with a grateful heart

Rev. Jay

Help Wanted

CAN YOU HELP?? Our Church is reliant upon volunteers who generously give their time to help make our Church function. **Our needs are many but are not hard to do nor take a lot of time.** Please contact the folks listed below to find out about volunteers opportunities.

Welcome Table: This group of volunteers welcomes folks as they arrive, helps guide visitors, and greets people during the Coffee Hour. Contact: Carolyn Gutierrez at cgutierrez36@comcast.net

Hospitality Table: This group of volunteers puts out and cleans up afterwards the refreshments for the Coffee Hour. It is a great way to meet and greet people as everyone wants a cookie! Please contact Denise Barth at barcobarth@comcast.net

Ushers: This group of volunteers welcomes folks at the door, hands out the order of service, helps people find seats if needed, and helps pass the offering baskets. Contact Bill Geller at wageller@gmail.com

Religious Education: We are in need of both nursery staff (caring for babies to 4 year olds) and teachers aides in the Elementary and Youth Groups. No experience necessary! Contact Catherine Bonner at catherinebuucs@gmail.com

The Grounds Crew: We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9am for a work at your pace maintenance of the grounds and memorial garden. Gardening knowledge not required! We provide the tools and water if you can bring your gloves, hats and comfortable shoes. Contact Larry Carman at larjin00@gmail.com

Among Ourselves



February 26- Charles Peirce

February 28- Brian Berry

February 28- Tom Cook

March 2- Michaele McGinnis

March 2- Janet Watson

If you are a member or a friend with a birthday this week that is not listed here, please inform the office.

I NEED A ROOM TO RENT- a note from Maria Krautner

I need to rent a room for April & May while in-between selling and purchasing a new condo. Quiet lady. Do not smoke, drink, or party. Prefer female. ... Attended UU (before lockdown) for 5+ years while living in Village Green. Am now in Palmer Ranch. Please call Maria @ 941 952-3865 and leave a message.