

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation



## Ormond Beach

### A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER: FAITH = Twenty Years of Justice

On January 24, 2000, FAITH was born when 16 Volusia County religious institutions committed to joining together to do the work of justice through community organizing. In the last twenty years, these 16 founding congregations, including our own, have been Fighting Against Injustice Toward Harmony (FAITH) alongside many others that have joined with us. FAITH now includes 30 congregations and institutions, bringing several thousand broadly diverse people together to identify community problems and find just solutions, making our county a better place to live for all. The following are just a few of the systemic changes FAITH has helped to implement in the past few years by working through our civic leaders:

- Drug rehabilitation programs for men and women in the Volusia County jail
- Extended bus route to and from beachside for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers
- Disruption of the School-to-Prison Pipeline, including:
  - Use of civil citations by law enforcement officers for young offenders rather than criminal penalties
  - Reduction in out-of-school suspensions
  - Implementation of Restorative Justice Programs, K-12
- Equipping First Responders with emergency Narcan for drug overdose cases
- First Step Shelter for the homeless, in operation since December 2019

How does FAITH accomplish these life-saving, life-affirming systemic changes in Volusia County? It starts with the most important part of any community organizing operation – you, me, US! Only through the power of we the people are these positive changes made possible. As part of FAITH, we engage in a four-step process each year: **Listen, Research, Action, and Celebration**:

- 1) At House Meetings in September, we **listen** to each other to discern community injustices which affect us or our loved ones, identifying the most pressing issues at our Problems Assembly in October.
- 2) We **research** the problem from October to March to find winnable solutions.
- 3) We seek **action** at the Action Assembly in April, when we take that solution to civic leaders who have the power to implement the solution
- 4) Win or not, in June, we **celebrate** our hard work and recommit our investment of time and financial support to the work of FAITH

In our congregation, we are about to begin our 21<sup>st</sup> cycle of justice work, starting with the Listening Process, which takes place through our own annual House Meetings where we listen to each other as we reflect on the community issues which adversely affect us or someone we love. This year, because of Covid-19, we will not be meeting face-to-face in each other's homes. Instead, we are going to have **one virtual House Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 30<sup>th</sup> via Zoom**. During that meeting, we will break out into groups to facilitate the listening process. You will be contacted soon with more detail about how you can get involved. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for **September 30**. The good works of FAITH simply cannot happen without YOU, me, us. **WE are FAITH and we can MOVE MOUNTAINS!**

In faith and love,  
Rev. Kathy

## **OUR PRESIDENT'S PEN: Our UU Values at Home**

The fifth principle in our Unitarian Universalist tradition asks us to support “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

As a congregation, we are addressing that democratic principle as we embark upon the task of preserving and enhancing our UUCOB building and grounds. The process first involved establishing a committee to investigate related issues and explore ways to solve problems as they emerge. Then, as a community of the whole, we will consider carefully the recommendations of those committee members who have worked diligently to give us the avenues of action which will best serve our entire church community.



Our Building and Grounds committee members— Susan Garrison, Cliff Jackson and Mike Downey— were charged by the Board of Trustees to assess our physical building as well as the surrounding grounds. They were asked to propose updates that would not only preserve and protect our building structure and grounds but also provide an inviting and appealing space inside and out. We must do so for our members now and for those in the future who will carry on the good work that our congregation began so many years ago.

The committee has spent hundreds of hours examining our property and searching for the best qualified vendors to provide high quality work for the most reasonable price. At the August Board of Trustees meeting, the committee presented a compelling report which they are now sharing with our entire community.

Now it is our turn. This week you'll receive more specific information about the updates and on August 30<sup>th</sup> after the Sunday worship service, via Zoom, you'll have the chance to ask questions of our B & G committee members. It is our responsibility as members to carefully consider all that goes into making judicious decisions regarding our building and the lovely grounds which surround it. So, call upon your own expertise and experience, listen carefully to Susan, Cliff and Mike, and then envision our building and lovely grounds—both as someone who is familiar with it and also as someone who is walking into our space for the first time.

I am confident that we will come together as a community and that we will make the best choices for our Beloved Community.

–Julie Hilburn

## **UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES**

### **August 30—Dr. Barry Pendry, “The Mystical Brain”**

Dr. Pendry will discuss Neurotheology and the Spiritual experience, with its implications for Unitarian Universalists. Currently, there is worldwide interest in Neurotheology, also known as the Science of Religion. Dr. Pendry will review Neurotheology from a UU perspective with emphasis on the spiritual/mystical experience. At the core of being, we are all mystics with opportunities to live the awakened life. Proponents say that Neurotheology is providing us with a Cliff Notes version of how to encounter the divine.

### **September 6—“Unsung Heroes: Celebrating Essential Workers”**

Who are these heroes? They have been working throughout the pandemic, sometimes at great personal risk, and often without much recognition. Speakers Sharon Conley, Dan Kerr, and Barbara Sandberg from our congregation will honor specific essential workers or groups of workers. Coordinated by Ellen Nielsen with Cliff Jackson as service leader.

**September 13—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, The Transcendental Club**

Established September 12, 1836, the Transcendental Club included an A-list of American scholars and thinkers led by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Their purpose was to explore an Eastern-influenced philosophy that exceeded the confines of a staid New England Unitarianism. We will take a look at American Transcendentalism and its relevance to us today.

**September 20—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Widening the Circle of Concern”**

The title above is also the title of the report of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Commission on Institutional Change. You might anticipate that a report from any “Commission” would be boring, but “Widening the Circle” is a compelling document of the need to face structures of racism and oppression in our Association, and how profound changes in the culture of our beloved institution in the last several years are leading us to become a truly liberating religion for all. I will introduce the work and suggest that we as a congregation take it up as a community book-read.

**September 27—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Why Justice?”**

On Wednesday, September 30, congregation-wide, we will engage in a FAITH House Meeting via Zoom. As we begin another arc of FAITH’s activities (see my *Jotter* column on page one) we must understand for ourselves why we are involved in or actively support the work of justice in our community. During the Sunday worship service on September 27<sup>th</sup>, FAITH Team Leaders Deborah Thompson, Bev Berger, Rebecca Caschette, and Rev. Kathy will share their exploration of why they do this work and encourage you to contemplate your own in preparation for the Listening Process which will take place on September 30.

**October 4—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day?”**

My calendar still calls the second Monday in October as Columbus Day, and it remains a government and bank holiday. What do you call it and why? At the UUA General Assembly this summer, I noticed that when speakers introduced their home congregations or other key locations, they would mention the First Nations people associated with that location. We will look at the reason for these G.A. disclosures and at the First Nation people of our own locale.

**Although we will NOT be meeting in person as a congregation for these Sunday services, they will be live streamed on Zoom each appropriate Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Please join us and tune in then.**

**You can access the link for them on our website at <http://www.uuormond.org/>**

**IN MEMORIAM: Robert S. Scherer 1924- 2020**

On April 29<sup>th</sup> our friend Bob Scherer passed away at home. Bob and his wife Laurie attended UUCOB for several years, beginning in 2005, where he was involved with the finance committee and active in church functions. He helped as an audio tech and created music tapes for our members. Bob and Laurie stopped coming to UU when Bob’s eyesight became so bad that he didn't feel safe driving from Port Orange. Bob was born in Suffern, New York, and after high school, he joined the US Army in 1944. He served in the 106th Artillery Division during WWII, where his tour of duty included fighting in the Battle of the Bulge.

After his 1945 discharge from the service, he began a 40-year career with AT&T. After retirement, he and his wife Laurie moved to Port Orange and began attending our UU.

--Joanne Kennedy

## REFRESHING UUCOB: Report of the Building and Grounds Committee -- August, 2020

**Introduction:** Over the last 18 months the building and grounds committee has considered how to update our building and grounds to make it inviting and how to address any deterioration from hidden areas of damaged or decay which may prove problematic.

We listened to members of the congregation about selection of materials and service providers and vendors. We always had to remind ourselves that this is a commercial project NOT a home decoration project.

### Summary of Findings and Recommendations:

**Exterior:** Our property has become severely overgrown and shabby looking. The invasion of vines has impeded landscape maintenance and is encroaching our building. Untrimmed trees are unattractive, create debris, and drape over walking and parking areas. Huge hedges dominate our front lot, are expensive to maintain, encroach on our building, and create the feeling of a barrier from street side. Parking lot signs are rusted, poles are bent, and the parking lot has cracks and dim lines. The parking lot needs to be refreshed. Cracks in the stucco of our building invite deterioration from the weather for the building infrastructure. It is time for us to significantly address these concerns with removal of overgrown hedges, significant trimming and removal of invasive plants, and creation of an attractive landscaped and well-maintained front area and a repair and exterior painting of our building. Our street sign would be replaced with and digital display to make message more responsive and additional signs could enhance our welcome and be informative.

**Interior:** The flooring in our building presents an air of neglect and poses maintenance challenges. Carpeting is stained beyond the ability of cleaning to make a difference. Cracked and scared tile in bathrooms, kitchen, and main office are unsanitary, unsafe, and outdated. New carpet and modern cove board baseboards and a wood-like laminate in bathrooms, kitchen, main office, and our hallway would enhance our facility. Care has been taken to select non-slip products with long life and easy maintenance in mind. The sanctuary would be carpeted to address concerns about our sound systems.

**Technology:** We have approached our technology upgrade from every which way over several years. It is now time to take action. First priority is to create a hybrid approach to be used as we return to our facility after the pandemic. The system must be easy-to-use, allow for remote access, and not break the bank.

### Suggested Budget

Note: We are using commercial vendors and licensed service providers with very limited volunteer participation. Given the current climate, our volunteers are not readily or safely available. This is the time to undertake this effort as our building is not being heavily used.

1) Exterior Painting and stucco repair	\$6,100
2) Cleanup of property around front area, landscaping, and general clearing for maintenance and appearance.	6,000
3) Repairs to parking lot and new signs for parking	900
4) New electronic sign mounted on existing pillar (est.)	8,000
5) New flooring for entire building -- carpeting except in lavatories, washroom, kitchen and main office which would be laminate.	12,000
6) Interior painting including all prep, woodwork, doors, paint and repairs to ceiling in sanctuary	12,500
7) Audio video system upgrade	4,500
Total:	<u>\$50,000</u>

## The Spirituality of Africa

**"When the missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, "Let us pray." We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land."**

--Bishop Desmond Tutu

What was the pre-colonial spirituality of Africa? To get a feel for the transition that Desmond Tutu refers to a bit tongue in cheek, join us at a series of lectures by **Mr. Robert Whiting** about the spiritual traditions of Africa. The series is sponsored by the African-American Cultural Society and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ormond Beach **via Zoom** with opportunities for dialog and questions. **The first lecture is entitled "African Spirituality" and is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.**

Robert Whiting, a native of Washington DC., graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of the District of Columbia with a degree in Business Administration and then an MBA from George Washington University. Mr. Whiting worked most of his career in Federal agencies such as the General Accounting Office, the Treasury Department, the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Agriculture.

During his over 30 years of research on Africa, particularly Nile Valley Civilizations, Mr. Whiting studied the *Medu Netcher* (Egyptian hieroglyphs) under the tutelage of Ankh Mi Ra, the only African-American to write a grammar book of this ancient African language. He has worked with some of the world's most preeminent African scholars and lectured at universities, schools, churches, and community groups.

To reserve your place at this webinar, please send e-mail to [SpiritualityAACs@gmail.com](mailto:SpiritualityAACs@gmail.com) with the notation "African Spirituality Zoom Meeting." Please make sure that your reservation is acknowledged.

--Reinhold Schlieper



The Mountain

### UNDERSTAND WHITE PRIVILEGE AND BECOME AN ANTI-RACIST:

#### A Starting Point for Self-Reflection and Racial Reconciliation

This virtual course is offered by the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: a six-week series on Wednesdays at noon - 1:30 p.m. The course extends from September 23 to October 28 with an excellent teacher (ask Cathy Jackson for references) Dr. Rita Brodnax earned her doctorate in educational leadership with a focus on applying brain research to teaching, learning and communication. She has had culturally diverse and in-depth experiences in the education field, from teacher to administrator, professional development coordinator to consultant. Dr. Brodnax is passionate about creating engaging programs that address real world challenges and contribute real world solutions.

#### Recommended Resources:

***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*** by Robin DiAngelo, with forward by Michael Eric Dyson

***How to Be an Antiracist*** by Ibram X. Kendi

Cost: \$60. Registration link: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/understand-white-privilege>

The Mountain is a retreat, camp and learning center based in western North Carolina. Programs at the Mountain celebrate Unitarian Universalist principles and work to inspire people of all ages, transform lives and build a more compassionate world.



## NEW MEMBER PROFILE: Ludy Goodson

Ludy (Ludwika) Goodson was born in Conroe, Texas, near a small farm in Magnolia, to a young Polish woman and a U.S. soldier after the end of WWII. She lived in Houston until age 17. Today, her younger brothers live in Texas and Arizona. From Houston, Ludy's debate scholarships took her to Denton, Texas, and she became engaged, married and then moved to Berkeley, California, then to Ames, Iowa, and later to Montreal, Canada, where she earned her VFR private pilot's license.

The peripatetic Ludy began a single life again in Tallahassee, Florida, where she enrolled in a doctoral program of instructional systems design, remarried, and after a number of years again became a single woman. After more than thirty years in Tallahassee, and almost three in Holly Hill, Ludy moved again, this time to Indiana, for eight winters. In the summers, she visited and stayed with friends Gaia and Kurt Davies. Along the way, Ludy became a "nonbiological" mom to three now-adult children and is an aunt to several nieces and nephews.

Her work in instructional design includes education and human services agencies and higher education teaching and learning centers at Florida State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Georgia Southern University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Purdue University, Fort Wayne. Ludy co-authored the book *Online Teaching at Its Best*, published by Wiley, Inc. in 2018.

Also in 2018, Ludy traded snow-time years for our lovely Florida beaches. Now she sings in our UU choir, had her first karaoke experience on Jon Sandberg's birthday, and started crocheting with Gini Downey. She has acted and sung in community theater for more than fifteen years, likes to create with watercolor and *sumi-e* (Japanese ink painting), write poetry and is working on a novel. Ludy quickly became a busy member of our UU and now helps us with our online Sunday services.

--Dorothy Dobson

## LIFE-LONG LEARNING—Program for September

Life Long Learning programs for 2020 are varied and involve topics related to philosophy, history and the arts as well as science and education. Each session includes time for audience questions and comments. Although LLL programs usually take place in our church building, because of the coronavirus, our fall programs instead will be available through our website <http://www.uuormond.org/> and featured there through Zoom on Wednesdays, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

### Dr. Steven Estabrooks, Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### "What do Aging, Cancer, and the Short Life of the Bay Scallop Have in Common?"

*Argopecten irradians* is the scientific name for the Atlantic bay scallop. Dr. Estabrooks will discuss his research on *Argopecten irradians*, their reproductive cycle, and their lifespans. A bay scallop can double its weight by storing nutrients in the form of carbohydrates, lipids, and protein for an upcoming winter.

Steve Estabrooks earned his Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island. He has worked in hospital laboratories and conducted research in marine biology on the island of Nantucket. He has taught courses on advanced biology, whales, chemistry, criminal investigations and marine biology to high school students.

--Tom Hilburn

### Calendar for September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Mah Jongg: Postponed  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Caring mtg. Postponed  Democracy Now: Postponed  Spiritual Growth: 4:30 – 6 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>4</b> Potluck dinner: Cancelled	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  Tai Chi: Postponed  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>7</b> <b>Labor Day                      Holiday</b>	<b>8</b> Mah Jongg: Postponed  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>9</b> Worship mtg.: 11 am-Noon <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>10</b> Writers Group: Postponed Democracy Now: <b>Postponed</b>  Spiritual Growth: <b>via Zoom</b>  Democratic Club: <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  Tai Chi: Postponed  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>14</b> Finance Mtg.: 10:30am - noon  Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: <b>via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	<b>15</b> Mah Jongg: Postponed  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>16</b> Bhagavad Gita Postponed	<b>17</b> Writers Group: Postponed Democracy Now: Postponed  Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  <b>Board of                      Trustees mtg:</b> 5:30- 7 pm <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Noetic Sciences: 1- 4 pm
<b>20</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  Tai Chi: Postponed  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>21</b> Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: <b>Via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm  <b>Jotter articles                      due</b>	<b>22</b> Mah Jongg: Postponed  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>23</b> Life Long Learning: <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>24</b> Writers Group: Postponed Democracy Now: Postponed Membership Mtg: 2:30-4 pm <b>Zoom</b>  Spiritual Growth: 4:30 - 6 pm <b>Zoom</b>  <b>African Spirituality</b> 7-8:30 pm <b>Zoom</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Board of Trustees retreat: 9 am-2 pm
<b>27</b> Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am & Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am <b>both via Zoom</b>  Tai Chi: Postponed  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>28</b> Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: <b>via Zoom</b>  Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm	<b>29</b> Mah Jongg: Postponed  Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm <b>via Zoom</b>  N Anon: 7-8 pm	<b>30</b> <b>FAITH                      House                      Meeting:</b> 6:30-8 pm <b>via Zoom</b>			

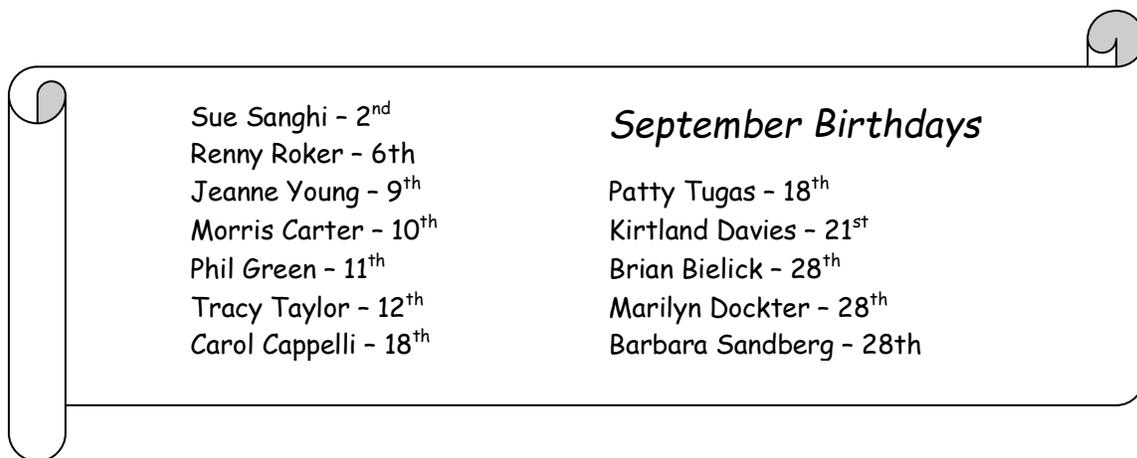
## Upcoming Worship Services

Theme for September—Renewal

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
Aug. 30--	“The Mystical Brain”	--Barry Pendry	--Dan Gribbin
Sept. 6--	“Unsung Heroes: Celebrating Essential Workers”	--UUCOB members	--Cliff Jackson
Sept. 13--	“The Transcendental Club”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West
Sept. 20--	“Widening the Circle of Concern”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West
Sept. 27--	“Why Justice?”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Carolyn West
Oct. 4--	“Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day?”	--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Dan Gribbin

Although we will not be meeting together in our church building this fall, you can join us for these services, which will be live streamed on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on each appropriate Sunday. We appreciate our musicians and technical folks who are helping to facilitate these Zoom sessions!

You can access the link for the sessions on our website at <http://www.uuormond.org/>



**The Jotter**

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach**

**September 2020**

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RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel

Children's RE via Zoom

Discussion Group via Zoom

(See our UU website for the Zoom links)

**Church administrator Cathy Jackson will be working from home; you can e-mail her or leave a message at 677-6172.**