

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER— Looking Forward to an “Awesome” Month



December is an apt month for the spiritual theme of “Awe.” After all, December days are the shortest and the nights the longest of the year. The colder, dryer air makes for better viewing of the night sky with its canopy of twinkling stars—an infinity which incites wonder, fear, and curiosity all at once— that’s the experience of awe.

December also holds for us a sense of mystery as we contemplate the ineffable. Just as the story of an impossible birth stretches our imagination, so does the knowledge of a billion other Milky Ways out there populating the vastness of space. When we put ourselves before such an awe-full and awe-some panorama, we realize the depth and breadth of what we don’t know and indeed probably will never have the capacity to know. And that not-knowing is a good thing. Accepting the mystery opens us to transcendent experiences which feed us in ways a material life never can.

Do you have to be a born mystic in order to have a transcendent experience? No. Indeed, you can be a scientist and be religious at the same time, but it requires a well-developed sense of awe. Here is what Albert Einstein had to say about it:

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed. This insight into the mystery of life, coupled though it be with fear, has also given rise to religion. To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which our dull faculties can comprehend only in their most primitive forms— this knowledge, this feeling, is at the center of true religiousness. In this sense, and in this sense only, I belong in the ranks of devoutly religious men. . . . It is enough for me to contemplate the mystery of conscious life perpetuating itself through all eternity, to reflect upon the marvelous structure of the universe which we can dimly perceive, and to try humbly to comprehend even an infinitesimal part of the intelligence manifested in nature.

“ . . . Coupled though it be with fear . . . ” yes — Einstein acknowledges that fear of the unknown can create dread in every one of us. But if we can give ourselves over to that fear, if we can lean in to it, we can also find an indelible sense of peace knowing that we are inextricably a part of that mystery. You and I are bound up in this awesome existence. Everything is star dust. Let’s take some time out this month to behold it.

Yours in faith and love,

Rev Kathy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE— Planning for the New Year

We are nearing the end of 2019, and much has happened at our UU from the time I returned from my European summer. To my disbelief and sadness, I found I had a different responsibility on the UU Board, stepping into the role of congregational president. During this past year, we have lost dear and valued members of our congregation. The sorrow of these losses has been expressed by Rev. Kathy and by the beautiful UU celebrations of life we have experienced this year. I salute the congregation for being such loving, caring and supporting members of this congregation.

The Board of Trustees has held three Board meetings and one Board Retreat since my tenure as president. The Board will continue to have monthly Board meetings on the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. of each month, but it will also begin to develop long-term strategic planning for renovations of several areas of the building. This plan will mean that we will need to form several ad hoc committees to assist in developing and completing the work. Some say “it takes a village” to get things done, but in our case, it will take a group of interested UU’s working as *ad hoc* committee members to accomplish these renovations. The Board will keep you updated on the work as it progresses. We have a valuable and cherished property with immensely deep memories of the people who founded the original Unitarian Universalist Society, and the past and present members who have helped build the congregation to what it is today.

However, just like your own home – any building needs a spruce up now and then, so look at it this way – together we are protecting our UU property as you protect your own home. Just as we have a cherished building and lovely grounds to protect, we also have good programs to protect and enhance where necessary. We offer a variety of excellent weekly programs, a wonderful choir, an active Alliance, adult and children Religious Education programs, fundraising fun, standing committees meeting monthly and much, much more.



Therefore, as we develop the long-term Strategic Plan that will identify major issues needing our attention and we set goals to deal with them, the Board, with assistance from the ad-hoc committees, will make certain that we can act on and attain those goals.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

--Betty Green

UPCOMING PULPIT PRESENTATIONS

December 1—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Got Awe?”

Experiencing awe – of the jaw-dropping kind – is good for your mind, body, and spirit. Let’s explore what it is to cultivate a sense of awe. We will welcome new members to our congregation at the end of the service.

Service Leader: Cliff Jackson

December 8—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Be Still, Look Up, and Listen”

Borrowing from the title of our choral anthem for this Sunday, there is no better recommendation amidst the flurry of the Christmas season.

Service Leader: Linda Kalaydjian

December 15—Dr. Dan Gribbin, “The Power of the Folk”

Ballads, work songs, and songs of social justice have contributed a great deal, in America, to our sense of ourselves as a strong and independent people. This sermon in song tells the story of the power of the folk by highlighting a number of powerful and moving songs, including some by contemporary singer/songwriters like Joni Mitchell, Pete Seeger, and Crosby, Stills & Nash.

Service Leader: Rita Scheeler

December 22—Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa”

Kwanzaa is a seasonal celebration not to be conflated with Christmas or other religious holiday of the winter season. Let us explore Kwanzaa’s distinctive African heritage.

Service Leader: Patty Alsobrook

Tuesday, December 24— Rev. Kathy Tew Rickey, “Joyeux Noel”

A Christmas Eve candlelight service celebrating the peace on earth that the birth of Jesus inspires

December 29 — Ellen Nielsen and the Congregation, “Looking Back, Looking Forward”

As we look back at 2019, what joys and sorrows of this eventful year do we remember? As we look forward to 2020, what are our hopes for the coming year? No regular sermon this Sunday—instead, members of the congregation will have a chance to speak about the last year, and the next year. Our choir will provide a joyful and hopeful anthem, “What a Wonderful World.”

THE ALLIANCE—Celebrations Ahead

In November, Alliance members voted to provide Christmas gifts to women living in the Avenues Twelve shelters. This program provides a structured and stable atmosphere for women who are recovery from alcohol and substance addictions. It bridges the gap between treatment centers and integration into daily family and community life. There are approximately 40 women living in three private houses in Daytona Beach. We are also researching books or journals to help them in their recovery journey. Our Share-the-Plate offering on December 15th will also help to benefit this program.



To provide gifts for these women, we will be hosting a Christmas crafts table after the Sunday service on December 8, 15, and 22. This is your opportunity to buy lovely Christmas gifts for your neighbors and friends while helping other people in need. We’ll also host our famous Christmas cookie sale after the Sunday service on December 22, just in time for your holiday celebrations. In addition, we will decorate our Christmas tree again this year with new socks donated by members of our congregation for homeless men and to the women in the recovery houses at Avenues Twelve. Please bring pairs of socks and help decorate our tree.

Some of our members will be going on a field trip to Bok Tower Gardens near Lake Wales on December 11. We have booked a bus to take us there and look forward to enjoying the beautiful grounds and seeing the lovely Christmas decorations.

Alliance members will be meeting at 11:30 at our UU on December 5th. You’re welcome to bring a bag lunch and join us so that we can enjoy each other’s company catching up with UU friends before the meeting begins. All are welcome!

--Jeanne Young

LIFE-LONG LEARNING—Program for December

Life Long Learning programs for 2019 have been varied and have involved topics related to philosophy, history and the arts as well as science and education. Each session includes time for audience questions and comments. LLL programs usually take place in our Room 2 on Wednesdays, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Jim Cunningham, “Literature of the Sea” — 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11th

As both a sailor and a student of literature related to the sea, Jim has a great love of the ocean. In this program, he will share his assessment of and experience with the literature of the sea.

Jim Cunningham has taught literature and other areas of the humanities for forty-five years. In addition, Jim has served as Chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and more recently as Associate Vice President, Academics and Director of the Study Abroad Programs at Embry-Riddle.

--Tom Hilburn

OUR 6th ANNUAL MARKETPLACE — Shopping Fun Continues

The Marketplace’s purchase tables will be open on **Sunday, December 1st** so be sure to sign up early for those unique themed dinners as well as the many other exciting events and helpful services that you don’t want to miss. Many of our members are offering useful services, special meals, activities and interesting events for purchase. For example, you might enjoy taking lessons in making chocolates, trying a sailing adventure, or enjoying musical events as well as other interesting and fun opportunities such as a stay at a condo in Chautauqua, (New York) or attending a Downton Abbey Tea, or tickets to “Paris at the Peabody.” You can also get help with such chores as shopping, cleaning, and other assistance that our fellow UU’s have offered.

Don’t miss out on some unique experiences! If you’ve taken part in past years, you know that these opportunities not only earn money for our UU, but also provide enjoyable activities with interesting people as well as a chance to know each other better. If you have questions, please e-mail Julie Hilburn or Betty Green.

OUR CHOIR—A Message from Choir Director Dan Kerr

Hello from chilly Delaware! First, let me say how pleased and grateful I am to hear that Nathan West is doing such a terrific job as interim choir director. How fortunate we are to find such a wonderful talent.

Recently I’ve been thinking about the theme for this coming year. If you are like me, reading and watching the news, you know that these are some pretty dark times in our country and around the world. However, I think it’s important to find ways to counter these shadows of negativity. After a conversation with Reverend Kathy, I have settled in on the seven principles of our Unitarian Universalism as the music message for this year.

We need anthems that affirm the dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; acceptance and understanding of one another; spiritual growth; the search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process; care for our planet and its resources; and respect for the inherent interdependency of all of which we are a part. These very practices can counter the ideological, political, cultural, and religious divisions that exist today.

Thus, the theme this year is simple: “Be Yourself.” Let us continue to be the wonderful family of UU’s that reminds me every Sunday why I so look forward to coming to church. I hope it does the same for you, and that the music that the choir, Janet Stroumpis, Martha Brandt, Dan Gribbin, and so many other UU musicians present, in some way, strengthens our resolve to fight the darkness. May It Be So.

December 2019

<p>1</p> <p>Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am</p> <p>Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>Marketplace shopping after the service</p> <p>Tai Chi: 4-5 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm</p> <p>Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon</p> <p>Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Nick Kaars Talk 9:30-10:30 am</p> <p>Worship Mtg. 11 am-12:20 pm</p> <p>Choir practice: 6- 7:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Caring Mtg. 10-11 am</p> <p>Democracy Now: 10:30 am- noon</p> <p>Spiritual Growth: 4:30- 6 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Potluck dinner: 6-8:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Subud Mtg. 6-9 pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am</p> <p>Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>Craft Sale after the service</p> <p>Hearts 4 Souls: 1:30-3:30 pm</p> <p>Tai Chi: 4-5 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm</p> <p>Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Writers Group: 10 am -noon</p> <p>Mah Jongg: 10 am -noon</p> <p>Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Life Long Learning: 4 -5:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Finance Mtg: 10:30-noon</p> <p>Democracy Now: 10:30 am- noon</p> <p>Alliance: 11:30am-1:30 pm</p> <p>Spiritual Growth: 4:30- 6 pm</p> <p>Democratic Club: 6:30- 8 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Game Night: 6- 8 pm</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am</p> <p>Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>(Share the Plate offering)</p> <p>Craft Sale after the service</p> <p>Tai Chi: 4-5 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm</p> <p>Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Mah Jongg: 10 am-noon</p> <p>Meditation: 6:30-8:30 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bhagavad Gita study: 2-4 pm</p> <p>Choir practice: 6- 7:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Democracy Now: 10:30- noon</p> <p>Spiritual Growth: 4:30-6 pm</p> <p>Board of Trustees Mtg: 5:30-7 pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Jotter articles due</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Subud Mtg. 6-9 pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am</p> <p>Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>Craft & Cookie sale after the service</p> <p>Tai Chi: 4-5 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm</p> <p>Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve service: 4:30 -5:30 pm</p> <p>Potluck dinner to follow</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Democracy Now: 10:30- noon</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Game Night: 6- 8 pm</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Discussion Group: 9:15-10:15 am</p> <p>Sunday Service: 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>Tai Chi: 4-5 pm</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bag lunch w. Rev. Kathy: noon-1 pm</p> <p>Yoga: 6:15-7:45 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>N Anon: 7-8 pm</p>				

Upcoming Worship Services

Theme for December—Awe

Date:	Topic:	Presenter:	Service Leader:
December 1 — “Got Awe?” *New Member Welcome Ceremony		--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Cliff Jackson
December 8 — “Be Still, Look Up, and Listen”		--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Linda Kalaydjian
December 15 — “The Power of the Folk” *Share-the-Plate with the Alliance Christmas Project		--Dan Gribbin	--Rita Scheeler
December 22 — “The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa”		--Rev. Kathy Rickey	--Patty Alsobrook
December 24 — “Joyeux Noel” Christmas Eve Service *Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 pm		--Rev. Kathy Rickey and the Congregation	
December 29 — “Looking Forward, Looking Backward”		--Ellen Nielsen and the Congregation	



December Birthdays

Judy Gordon -6th

Nancy Greenleaf-6th

Evan Rivers -15th

Don Kennedy -26th

Kathryn Neel -28th



The Jotter

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Ormond Beach

December 2019

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Office hours: M/W: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. & T/Th: 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.

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Carolyn West: *Jotter* editor (386) 672-9352

RE teachers: Debra Hanson/Mary Wentzel

Children's RE on Sunday 10:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Discussion Group meets Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday Service: 10:30 -11:30 a.m.