

Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Ormond Beach

A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER: — Honoring Our Lament

The Fall 2020 issue of the *UUWorld* magazine is full of compelling articles. Helen Casoli, UUCOB member and a Trustee of our congregation, pointed out one of them to me. Helen said the article “Recognizing Lament” by Myriam Renaud, struck a deep chord with her. I had read the article and I feel it, too. My responding so is no wonder, given the era we are living in right now. I am moved to ask:

Are there any among us who have not lamented being physically separated from our church community and from the familiar comfort of being together in sacred space on Sunday mornings?

Are there any among us who are not bone-weary of the threat of COVID and the isolation from our own loved ones that this pandemic brings?

Are there any among us who do not worry about the civil unrest, clearly a result of injustices-too-long-ignored, as well as the vitriolic divisiveness that continues to grow around these problems?

Are there any among us who do not worry about which way the socio-political winds of our country will blow in November?

We all have cause to lament these days because there is so much to worry about and so little that we can do about it on our own and in isolation. Even in solidarity, the problems are monumental and the work exhausting. Not only is there the big stuff to worry about, there are as well the ongoing concerns within our own lives we must hold. While I would caution us not to fall into despair — because there is still plenty to be joyful about in this life — I would also advise against ignoring our laments or internalizing them. There is value in naming and sharing with each other our sorrows and our fears, especially in an intentional, ritualized way.

Thus, I would like to offer a way to honor our sorrows and fears with a bi-weekly Zoom meeting called “Honoring Our Lament.” I will facilitate the first few meetings and provide a framework of chalice lighting, readings, sharing, reflective music, and closing. The sharing part will be a process of deep listening and deep sharing. The first hour will be structured and the last half hour will be free-flowing fellowship. If we find this structure works well, we can then take turns bringing readings and other inspiration to the group.



Beginning in the month of October, I will host the “**Honoring Our Lament**” meetings on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays (October 6th and 20st) from 5:30 to 7 p.m.** The Zoom link information will be available in the E-News as well as posted on our website. I hope you will join me in creating a circle of support as we share our deepest concerns, sorrows, worries, and fears invoked by our living through these unprecedented times.

Yours in faith and love,
Rev. Kathy