

# The Congregational Record

OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF VERO BEACH



March 21, 2020

## Minister's Column

Dear Members and Friends, here is a **SUMMARY** of everything you need to know about our **current** congregational response to the Corona virus situation (we will keep you updated as things will inevitably change over coming days and weeks).



**NEW OUTREACH INITIATIVE.** Every Sunday, starting March 22, you will receive an email at 9 a.m. from the Fellowship, which will include a video link (JUST CLICK AND WATCH!) to a *"Sermon for the Day"* from the UUFVB video sermon archive, on a subject that I believe will be timely and helpful. The sermon for March 22, Rev. Alexander's 2014 video sermon, *"Golfing With Monkeys."* As of Monday, March 23, Rev. Alexander (out of an abundance of caution) will no longer be hosting the "in person, small group" meetings at 1 p.m. that have been occurring this week in the UUFVB Lobby. We will be moving to video/telephone meetings. Please see the yellow-highlighted announcement below about how to participate "remotely."

For the time being, Rev. Alexander will be keeping more-or-less-regular weekday office hours, and will be available for "safe-distance" meetings with individual folks in his office, as scheduled. He is also available to you by email [minister@uufvb.org](mailto:minister@uufvb.org), and cell phone 772 359 0602.

Until further notice, the UUFVB facility is only available for "safe-distance" meetings of 10 persons or less (which the state and civic authorities still permit). If you have any business in or with our UUFVB office, you should call first to make sure someone is here to help you.

Starting Monday, March 23, Rev. Alexander will facilitate a **Zoom** Video Conference call at NOON Monday through Friday. Rev. Alexander will begin each daily noon meeting by offering something "spiritual/reflective," followed by a conversation shared by all participants. You may participate by home computer (if you have a camera and speaker, everyone will be able to see and hear you), or you can participate by telephone by using the number given on the "meeting invitation." Here is the invitation for each of next week's noon meetings, just click on the URL or

## Staying in Touch

dial in by phone. Here is the "invitation" for all 5 meetings:

### UUFVB DAILY CHECK-IN MEETING (March 23-27), 12 p.m.

Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Mar 23, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 24, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 25, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 26, 2020 12:00 PM

Mar 27, 2020 12:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting: click on

[https://zoom.us/j/814816233?](https://zoom.us/j/814816233?pwd=R2dTUzJXNmV6VFFlWG95VHVlZdNdz09)

[pwd=R2dTUzJXNmV6VFFlWG95VHVlZdNdz09](https://zoom.us/j/814816233?pwd=R2dTUzJXNmV6VFFlWG95VHVlZdNdz09)

**Meeting ID: 814 816 233**

**Password: 980455**

### One tap mobile

+16468769923,,814816233# US (New York)

+13126266799,,814816233# US (Chicago)

**Meeting ID: 814 816 233**

**Find your local number:** <https://zoom.us/u/abF8rQRizr>

Please remember we have a UUFVB "Caring Circle" established to help those in the congregation who need some logistical help (grocery shopping, medical transportation, etc.) during this time of disruption. If you 1) need some assistance, or 2) can offer assistance, please contact Rev. Alexander at 772 359 0602, or [minister@uufvb.org](mailto:minister@uufvb.org).

Please stay in touch with us if you have any needs you think we can help with during this difficult and complicated time. We hope it won't be too terribly long until our congregational life/activities can return to near normal...but, of course, no one how long this will be. We will stay regularly in touch...in the meantime, be well and of good and gracious heart.

--Submitted by Rev. Scott Alexander





## UUFVB Board of Trustees Report

**Note:** Regular publication of the newsletter has been suspended. Issues will be created as deemed necessary by the minister and Board of Trustees. The Annual Meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 15, by Zoom or conference call, and instructions for connecting will be sent to you. Background Information relative to that meeting will be communicated to you by email or postal service.

### AnnUual AUUction Now December 12

Hold on to your tickets and they will be honored on the new date. People who donated items, such as dinners for certain dates, will be contacted to establish new dates. This event, which normally brings in around \$17,000, is an important source of revenue for the budget.

--Submitted by Spike Vrusho

### Transitional Meal Prep Is March 24

The March Transitional Meal will be pulled pork barbecue. Please leave your donations in the kitchen by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, and write "Transitional Meal" on your donation.

Because this meal will not require cooking or preparation, it is the ideal choice for this time, especially due to our Fellowship's policy and cancellations. Please feel free to contact either Rachel Hanks, [rmhanks424@gmail.com](mailto:rmhanks424@gmail.com) or Janice Schroeder, [nelliemaes-mom@yahoo.com](mailto:nelliemaes-mom@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

--Submitted by Rachel Hanks

At its February 20 meeting, the Board of Trustees addressed the following issues.

- Jack Stiefel and Irwin Sadetsky reviewed the history of the 2006 UUFVB policy regarding the inclusion of the words "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach" in advertising for Emerson Center events. The Board reaffirmed that policy, then voted to notify the Emerson Center Committee that any advertising relating to an event at Emerson Center shall include the following words: "The Emerson Center is located on the campus of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, located at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue."
- A proclamation regarding climate change, written by member Pete Kersey, was approved by the Board, and will appear on the agenda at the Annual Meeting of the membership.
- Dick Haight, chair of the Nominating Committee, reviewed the proposed slate of candidates for office to be presented at the Annual Meeting. There was discussion regarding nominating more candidates than available positions, but all agreed that the committee must recommend only one nominee per opening.
- Notes from the Jan. 30 executive session will be included with the regular minutes of the Board's Jan. 16 meeting.
- The Board approved the appointment of Patty Walker as Executive Director of the Emerson Center, effective April 7. She replaces Steve Becker in that position.
- Treasurer Rebecca Hornbuckle reported on her meeting with Patty Walker, in which they discussed Board of Trustees oversight of Emerson contracts and deposits, and on limiting the number of presentations per year. A new policy regarding Board oversight of EC contracts will be presented at the March meeting.
- Woody Sutton, Finance Committee chair, informed the Board that an internal review of UUFVB's financial records is underway, as dictated by a 2019 bylaws change. Rod Baker and Ken Heller are doing the review.
- A search committee is seeking a Music Director to replace Paula Herger, who resigned due to illness. Serving on the committee with Rev. Scott Alexander are Carolyn Wehle, Sue Nalepa, Violante Fioravanti, Bonnie Pendleton and Earle Beasley. Choir members expressed their preference that the new director perform and direct music.
- A dispute between UUFVB/the Emerson and Walsh & Palmer, producers of the Celtic Angels, has been settled. Tom Tierney reported that Walsh & Palmer settled for the disputed amount of \$5,839.60 and waived its filing fees and legal expenses.
- The contract with MusicWorks, signed by Steve Becker, for purchase of audio equipment, will run through the 2023 season, rather than 2022 as per the original contract.
- A Finance Town Hall, to explain the proposed FY 20-21 budget, will be held Sunday, April 5, via an electronic process to be outlined later.
- The membership Annual Meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 19. Details on the process will be released later.
- An "angel" has covered the cost of a new board room table and the replacement of carpet and tile in parts of the building. The work has been completed.
- The Finance Committee hopes to increase the Fellowship's support for UUA in the FY 2020-21 budget.

—Submitted by Suzy Bromwell and Bonnie Shelton



**Picnic a Success.** The all-congregation picnic at the farm of Rebecca and Mark Hornbuckle was a great success. Members of the Evensong Covenant Group helped with arrangements. Pictured above are, from left, Ladd Borne, Rebecca Hornbuckle, Kim McIntyre, Bonnie Shelton, Kristen Jolly, Donna Brewer, Mark Hornbuckle and Jen Sutton. Left insert are Stuart and Kathy Barnes, at right is Kelly Stephens. Helpers not pictured include Patty Walker, Ellen Deschates, and John Orcutt.



## Congregational Record

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
1590 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vero Beach FL 32960  
772-778-5880; [uufvb.org](http://uufvb.org)

**Board of Trustee Officers:** Cate Wenzing, president; Kathy Cossa, vice president; Suzy Bromwell, secretary; Rebecca Hornbuckle, treasurer.

**Trustees:** Sue Burt, Barbara Dunst, Ken Klein, Jonnie Mae Perry, Tom Tierney

[newsletter.uufvb@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.uufvb@gmail.com)

Deadlines the 1st & 15th each month

**Editor, Bonnie Shelton**

### Art Gallery Adapts Schedule

Due to the Covid 19 virus, the League of Pen Women has cancelled the juried art show that was to take place next month in the Emerson Gallery. The current art exhibit will continue to April 30.

--Submitted by Lee Orre

### Social Justice Reminders

The Social Justice Steering Committee is no longer collecting craft items for KIRB's Upcycle It! Thrift & Craft Store. However, the committee is still collecting personal-size toiletries for homeless persons. Leave donations at the UUFVB office. We thank Deborah West for distributing these donations to various agencies.

--Submitted by Nancy Stiefel

### 1619 Reading Packet Is Available

The 5th session of The 1619 project has been cancelled. However, the reading packet is available. If you would like a digital copy, please email Andrew Sorbo at [andrew.sorbo535@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.sorbo535@gmail.com).

This session may be rescheduled in the fall. In the meantime, Andrew will welcome comments on the readings. The Social Justice Committee will work on a way to share responses with everyone interested.

--Submitted by Andrew Sorbo



### April Anniversaries and Birthdays



<b>Anniversaries</b>		Lisa Kahle	4/20
Jim & Cynthia Marlow	4/04	Jim Miller	4/20
Wayne & Linda Osborn	4/22	Susan Schmitke	4/20
		Diane Conway	4/21
<b>Birthdays</b>		Earle Kirkbride	4/21
Anna Collins-Proper	4/01	Ken Heller	4/23
Harry Schmitke	4/04	Sue Nalepa	4/23
Becky Sims	4/04	Nick Sanders	4/23
Woody Sutton	4/06	Rachel Hanks	4/24
Donna Brewer	4/07	Mark Hornbuckle	4/24
Hester Denniston	4/08	Marilee Bell	4/25
Bonnie Howard	4/08	Frank Bilotta	4/25
Karen Swanson	4/08	Ron Schaeffer	4/25
Maureen Simmons	4/10	Bill Tarnowski	4/25
Curtis Hessler	4/12	Jim Brewer	4/27
Crystal Bujol	4/17	Jon Levi	4/28
Richard Atkinson	4/20	Dennis Dabbs	4/29

### Fair Trade Corner Receives Kudos

Gale Parmentier recently received a congratulatory email from Equal Exchange, the supplier of our outstanding coffee, tea, and chocolate products. Here is what it said. Drum roll please!

**"We want to share that, for the 2019 sales year, your congregation was, again, among the top 5% of more than 6,000 faith-based groups who order Equal Exchange products. More specifically your group ranks at #53 of those 6,000+ groups - that's no small feat."**

Coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange were the first (and only) products that the Fair Trade Corner sold "back in the day." This is an incredible achievement, only made possible by all of you who continue to purchase our high-quality products.

From all of us who work in the Fair Trade Corner, thank you for your patience while we remain closed during this virus emergency.

--Submitted by Denise Haight