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A Welcoming Congregation
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Saturday, September 5, 2020 **UUFBC E-News** **Issue 8, July 2020-June 2021**

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members,

This is a big week for the Board of Directors, the Worship Committee and for the Fellowship. After taking a summer break from offering our virtual Sunday services live each week, we are happy to announce their return. TOMORROW, September 6th, at 10:30 AM, we will begin again and we hope you will join us!



Reverend Tiffany Sapp will her present her message entitled, "Broken and Worthy". As we enter September, we approach the monthly theme of Renewal in the only place that we can start: the brokenness from which renewal emerges. Join us for a journey from trauma to renewal, drawing upon the promise of Unitarian Universalism's First Principle, "the inherent worth and dignity of all." Please come at 10:30 am to chat and interact with each other in real time during the service. After an introduction on Facebook live, the service will switch to a pre-recorded video also posted to Facebook and uploaded to YouTube.

*Many blessings to all,
The Board of Directors
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County*



Sunday Worship Services: *Worship Service schedule through the end of October. All services begin at 10:30 AM.*

September 2020 Monthly Theme, "Renewal"

September 6 **Reverend Tiffany Sapp** **"Broken and Worthy"** **(See page 1)**

September 13 **Robert Gilmore** **"The Good News"**

We are constantly bombarded with bad news, it's depressing. In this age of highly polarized politics and politicized everything, the promise of the enlightenment that reason and science will bring knowledge and progress has indeed, paid staggering dividends to our quality of life. In defense of the enlightenment, reason and science.

September 20 **Chris May** **"Round and Round and Round: An Equinox Circle"**

Joni Mitchel's Song, "The Circle Game", tells us that: "We're captive on the carousel of time / We can't return we can only look behind / From where we came / And go round and round and round / In the circle game."

Lately, life can feel that way. Six months ago, our first virtual service was the Spring Equinox circle, "Scattering Spring: Spreading Hope". The sun has continued its journey through the yearly cycle, and we find ourselves at the Fall Equinox. The theme of balance is highlighted in both of these holidays, reminding us that everything is temporary, that no season lasts forever. This Sunday, we will look for the hope we scattered last spring as we explore ways to keep our balance as we go "round and round and round in the circle game."

September 27 **Paul McAuliffe**

October 2020 Monthly Theme, "Deep Listening"

October 4th **Reverend Tiffany Sapp**

October 11th **Ken Sizemore**

October 18th **Annual Meeting at the UU Fellowship**

October 25th **Bob Nixon**

Report from the Treasurer: FY 2020 - 2021 Pledge Update

Greetings to everyone receiving this newsletter. I hope you are all doing well and staying safe.

To date, we have received twenty pledges from our membership for a total of \$24,053. Our targeted pledge total set back in April was for \$40,000.

On Sunday, 10/18/20, we plan to hold our annual meeting for this year (hopefully outdoors at our Fellowship). The final total of all pledges received by then will be presented to you by our Board of Directors for approval along with the budgeted expenses for this year that will be adjusted to balance equally with our budgeted incomes.

Let me conclude this update with a quote from our April Pledge and Stewardship request; "It is tempting for many of us to cut back our giving and guard our resources, but our faith community is calling on us. People are seeking us out as a caring community where they can find solace and safety and sanctuary. We stand out as a religious liberal voice in Bay County. The warmth, love, compassion and human connections we provide are difficult to find anywhere else. Our faith calls us to Side with Love."

We are **Stronger Together**,

Bob Nixon
Treasurer



UUFBC Information:

Quick Reference: If you would like assistance of any kind, call the UUFBC phone message line 850-615-4127 and/or email to info@uufbaycounty.com.

Sharing the Faith: We have many special people in our congregation and we want every one of them to know that as they face health challenges, aging challenges, relocation and family challenges, we are thinking of them and wishing for the best possible outcomes. We want to specifically send our message of caring and affection to: George Stephenson, Jane Nichols, Serena Dee Latiolais, Susie Sizemore, Bob McNeal, and Ruby Jo and Eddie Faust.

We also want to update the news from last week. MaryBeth Ferrary and her husband are selling their home and will be moving to Marietta, Georgia. Family from here and from Georgia are helping them with the move. Mary Beth is worried about all that is involved with this move, but she is feeling hopeful. She wants to tell everyone at the UU Fellowship that she will really miss them, and how important the UU and its members have been to her life here in Bay County. We will miss MaryBeth too and wish her and her husband Joe comfort and happiness in their new location.

UUFBC E-News: It has been my privilege to write articles, compile the copy, and edit the E-News each week for the past two months. There have been eight regular editions and a Special Edition during this time. I have been committed to touching base with our members and friends every week without fail while we were still isolated by COVID and without our Sunday services. Now that we are resuming our weekly worship services and can rely on being in touch that way, I am going to downshift and send out the newsletter once every two weeks, unless a special event or other urgent news item requires a Special Edition. Thanks so much to everyone who encouraged me and supported my effort to keep the E-News going at this pace.

Please do send ideas and items of interest that you would like to see in the E-News. Please also send pictures and poems. If you are able, write an article. Or, send a biographical summary. People enjoy reading those the most! Also let us know if someone should have a special acknowledgment or note of concern. Send your thoughts to info@uufbaycounty.com. Look for the next issue of the UUFBC E-News on Saturday, September 19th.

All the Best,

J. Sheffer

Social Justice: The **Civic Engagement Coalition** continues its nonpartisan work making sure everyone has accurate information about voting and encouraging all to exercise their right to vote. Many activities are planned between now and Election Day. When possible, events will be posted on the UUFBC website as well as announced in this newsletter. The next event is a Call Blast on Thursday, September 10th at 5:30 pm. We are calling NAACP members to ask them to volunteer for Get Out the Vote initiatives to increase voter participation in our community. If you want to participate, please email qbwall@aol.com with your contact information and best time to call. A team members will help you complete your registration before the event.

Doorways of NWFL: Doorways is hosting an outreach event for area homeless on Wednesday, September 9th at 10:30 AM. Lunch, resource information and COVID testing will be offered. If you can volunteer to package or serve food, or set up tables and prep the site, please meet staff at the First United Methodist Church parking lot, (903 E. 4th Street), just east of MLK Blvd. at 9 AM on the day of the event. PPE will be provided. If interested, email info@doorwaysnwfl.org with your name, cell phone number and which tasks you would like to do.



On Claiming This Time for Renewal by Reverend Gretchen Haley (Permission Source: Soul Matters Secured)

Though you have been warned
and given plenty of explanations
reasons to do otherwise
you have persisted
to claim a life of joy, and justice, and to carve out
this time for renewal of your own heart
despite the din demanding your attention
luring you towards fear and cynicism
you persist with gratitude
for this day, this life
that has been given this chance to begin again
despite all the forces of fragmentation
the disappointing ways we fail each other, fail ourselves
we must refuse to let grief undo us, or
to let our dreams get lost along the way -
in spite of all of the evidence
we keep showing up at the edge
of our own longing -and then,
we keep going
remembering this duty we have to life,
in a greater sense, this duty we have to each other,
our children, and their children -
this hope that is also a choice we make
this promise we fight for:
to persist in kindness, persevere in compassion
and prevail in a life that is bound
entirely to love - Come let us worship, together

Be well. Keep safe. Stay home when you can. Wear your gear when you can't stay home.

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