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A Welcoming Congregation

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Saturday, October 31, 2020 **UUFBC E-News** **Edition 12, July 2020-June 2021**

Greetings and Well Wishes to all of our members,

As a new Board of Directors, we have accepted the challenge of governance of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We know that there will be difficult decisions ahead. But we are joyful and enthusiastic about our Fellowship and the opportunities that we also know the future will hold. It is with that thought in mind, that we begin anew. Thank you to our membership for your attendance and participation at our Annual Meeting and for your ongoing support.

As is our practice, we want to highlight Matt Raver, the newest member of our Board of Directors.

Matt was born in Flint, Michigan, soon moved to Daytona, Florida and at age 6, moved to Farrell, Pennsylvania where he stayed until he had completed high school. Matt was a member of the schools' Choral program from middle school on. He enjoyed Farrell and has fond memories of his paper route and more importantly, his friend who gave him part-time employment. His friend was a mechanic and owned a car repair shop where work was done on valuable antique vehicles. Matt learned how to handle a wrench and other useful work and life skills.

After graduation, Matt joined the US Marine Corps and became a Field Radio Operator. Matt was in the Marines for 7 years and, during this time, he got married at Camp Lejeune and had 3 children. After his stint in the military, Matt returned to Farrell, Pennsylvania and worked for the State of Pennsylvania, staffing the local unemployment office.

In April 2000, Matt moved to Panama City and took a job at Honeywell, which he kept until November of 2005. Shortly after leaving Honeywell, Matt accepted a job at the News Herald as a Press Operator. During his fourteen years at the News Herald, Matt has learned everything about getting our local newspaper printed. He operates and maintains the press, plate machines, air compressors, water pumps, oil pumps, and all the electronics. He has earned the position of Press Supervisor and is in charge of daytime press operations.

Several themes remain active in Matt's life. Matt loves to sing and enjoys Karaoke whenever he can. An avid reader of nonfiction, Matt's main interest remains assembling and trouble-shooting computers and electronics of all kinds, even when he is not at the News Herald.

In 2003, Matt met his partner, Ron Fennell, and together in 2004, they came to our Fellowship when Ron applied for the position of pianist, which he has held ever since. Matt became a member of UUFBC shortly thereafter and has been responsible for recording our Sunday services for years. Sometimes he agrees to sing during our services also. We want to congratulate Matt on his recent election to an At-Large seat on the Board of Directors. We also congratulate him on the upcoming birth of his second grandchild, expected in January 2021.

Many blessings to all,

The Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

Bob Gilmore

Lynne Siegfried

Janet Cross

John Shaffer

Bob Nixon

Matt Raver



Sunday Worship Services: *All Worship Services begin at 10:30 AM.*

November 2020 Monthly Theme, "Healing"

November 1st Reverend Tiffany Sapp "Vision for Healing"

While the first step for healing may be acknowledging what is unwell and needs to be healed, we can't stop there. A clear vision of what healing looks like is what will move us forward. This is true for both individual and collective healing journeys, and right now we need a vision of healing for our world to motivate our choices and actions. This Sunday, Reverend Tiffany Sapp leads an exploration of what that Vision for Healing might look like and feel like. If you have any original writing, art or video statements that reflect your own Vision for Healing, please send them to Rev. Sapp at tiffanysappuu@gmail.com so that they can become part of our collective vision.

November 8th Steve Bornhoft "Beyond the Ephemeral Lies Humanity"

There was a time when politicians who ran insubstantial campaigns were dismissed as sloganeers without meaningful messages or policies. Today, if your message is to be digested, it better fit on a bumper sticker. People sell themselves with profile pics. Interpersonal communication has devolved from 280-character tidbits to 15-second Tik Toks. Much has been lost in this ephemeral world. Too rarely do we invest the time and energy required to establish dimensional relationships with others of a kind that results in mutual understanding and the capacity for healing.

November 15th Matthew Standish "Heroes Among Us"

This presentation discusses how Veterans are all around us doing interesting things in our community and you'll find them in places you might never expect. Matt writes monthly articles for the [Grand Lagoon Life Magazine](#) and he will share some of his favorites with us.

*November 22nd Reverend Marti Keller
November 29th Bob Nixon*

VOTE!

Social Justice:

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020 If you need any assistance to vote or know someone who does, contact Jo or John at jnshaffer@aol.com. Voting sites are open Saturday (TODAY), Sunday, Monday and Election Day to vote in person. Do not mail your ballot. If you have completed a Vote By Mail ballot, deliver it to the Supervisor of Elections office in the Government Center, 830 W. 11th Street.



Social Justice: Souls to the Polls 2020



Prayer on the Eve of an Election by Tess Baumberger

From the UUA Worship Web. Thank you to Chris May for sending it in.

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer/prayer-eve-election>

Spirit of Wisdom,
As we prepare to elect new citizens to lead us,
in our communities, town and cities,
in our counties, states, and our heart-torn nation,
grant us wisdom and discernment
so that we may choose those of peaceful heart,
of competent mind and of servant spirit.

Spirit of the Harvest,
Help us to winnow the grain from the chaff
and to reap the legacy of freedom
our founders planted for all of us.
Help us to gather together as one people
united in concern for this country
founded upon such promising ideals.

Spirit of Healing
Grant that we may bridge the breaches
that have opened between us.
Help us to understand one another,
to listen to the stories of who we are,
and to find common ground
on which we can move forward together.
Amen.

Be well. Keep safe. Wear your mask when you're not at home.

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