

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



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A Welcoming Congregation

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## Seasons Greetings! Well Wishes to All,

At the end of each year comes a time for stillness and reflection, a time to ponder our troubles, a time to think about the future. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, song lyrics expressed it this way:

*It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the Earth, good will to all, from heaven the news we bring."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing; and ever o'er its Babel sounds the  
blessed angels sing.*

*But with the woes of war and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the angel strain have  
rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we who fight the wars hear not the love song which they  
bring. Oh hush the noise of battle strife, and hear the angels sing.*

*For, lo! The days are hastening on by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold: when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and  
the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

In the lyrics of this beautiful old hymn by Edmund Hamilton Sears, we understand that strife and difficulty is a human condition that challenges us always as we seek peace and happiness. In this year now nearly gone, we have continuously done battle day by day with a vicious pandemic and experienced great sadness at its result. Yet, if we can hush the noise and be reflective, we remember that there have been and still are many days when heavenly music floats o'er us. Let us be optimistic and jubilant: the vaccine will come to us, the inauguration of a new administration will take place and a new year will be at hand. Peace on Earth! Good Will to All! Rejoice!

### The Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

*Bob Gilmore*

*John Shaffer*

*Lynne Siegfried*

*Bob Nixon*

*Janet Cross*

*Matt Raver*



**Sunday Worship Services:** Our virtual Worship Service begins at 10:30 AM. We invite you to join us on Zoom for the service by clicking the link below. Please join in by 10:25 AM, so you don't miss the beginning. We will also stream the service LIVE on Facebook and have it posted to our YouTube channel shortly after the service is over. In whatever way you choose to join us, thank you for being with us! [ZOOM LINK](#) - **Remember, please join a little early.**

"Coffee Talk" will take place immediately following the service on Zoom, so stay connected to enjoy another half hour of fellowship. If you're watching on Facebook, you're welcome to join us for Coffee Talk by clicking the link above after the service has ended.

### **December 2020 Monthly Theme, "Stillness"**

*The practice of turning off voices that aren't ours.*

*The practice of making space for deeper truth to speak.*

*The practice of finding peace.*

*The practice of living in the breath of the Divine.*

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Chris May**

**"Winter Peace, Soft and Still"**

This service is built around a sermon written by Reverend Victoria Safford entitled "Use Your Inside Voice." In it she speaks about the importance of being in touch with our inner selves. It is when that inside voice rises that we fuel our spirits for the work of social justice.

### **January 2021 Monthly Theme, "Imagination"**

*The practice of waking up to possibility.*

*The healing practice of putting ourselves in other people's shoes*

*The practice of completing the world by conjuring up its missing parts.*

*The practice of allowing hope to widen our view.*

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Reverend Tiffany Sapp**

**"The Seed of Acceptance"**

The third Principle of Unitarian Universalism is "Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth." For me, my first encounter with a Unitarian Universalist congregation gifted me with a depth of acceptance that I didn't even know was possible in a religious community. But where does Acceptance originate, and how can we cultivate it to grow more? Acceptance begins in our Imaginations. Come explore with me how we can use our imaginations deliberately to create more acceptance in our lives.

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Yvonne Petrasovits**

**"The Evolution of Homelessness in our Community"**

Historically, the panhandle of Florida has not had the services necessary to help all those in need, especially those who are homeless or living in unsafe conditions. After Hurricane Michael, the problem became much worse. Many more families found themselves without housing. Hear about the challenges facing Bay County, some potential solutions and how Unitarians can support affordable housing for all.

Contact us at [info@uufbaycounty.com](mailto:info@uufbaycounty.com) or call us at 850-615-4127 for more information. Please let us know if you have a joy or a concern the Service Leader may share during our worship service.



*Caroling at Bay Center on December 10, 2015*



*Practice Before Caroling on December 9, 2017*



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

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