

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



1410 Airport Rd., Panama City, FL 32405  
A Welcoming Congregation

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Saturday, January 22, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 18, July 2020-June 2021

Greetings and well wishes to all of our members!

Many of us were almost giddy earlier this week as Inauguration Day approached. Yes, we were disheartened but at the same time relieved to see all the troops throughout our nation's capital, indeed even sleeping in the Capitol building. And yet, when Wednesday morning came and the events of the day were underway, we loved seeing Bernie and his mittens, three of our former Presidents chatting together, Kamala's nieces in their pigtails, and hundreds of others gathered safely for the peaceful transfer of power. We witnessed famous news anchors who gushed, my own sister-in-law who called from Oregon to share her elation in high-pitched exclamations and so many others who joyously celebrated this great day we secretly feared might not come.

The events of inauguration were completed successfully and we can all cherish the beautiful and haunting vision of the lighted Reflecting Pool commemorating our country's COVID victims, as well as the vibrant colors and designs of the brilliant fireworks leaving their lasting impression of victory, after a serious battle with some of our country's worst demons.

Let us continue with positivity and hope for our nation's best future. There will be set-backs of course, but we can and must persevere. Here is our poet-laureate who you enjoyed during the inauguration ceremony, with another work of inspiration.

## Poem: The Miracle of Morning



*By Amanda Gorman*

I thought I'd awaken to a world in mourning.  
Heavy clouds crowding, a society storming.  
But there's something different on this golden morning.  
Something magical in the sunlight, wide and warming.



### Miracle of Morning continued...

I see a dad with a stroller taking a jog.  
Across the street, a bright-eyed girl chases her dog.  
A grandma on a porch fingers her rosaries.  
She grins as her young neighbor brings her groceries.

While we might feel small, separate, and all alone,  
Our people have never been more closely tethered.  
The question isn't if we will weather this unknown,  
But how we will weather this unknown together.

So on this meaningful morn, we mourn and we mend.  
Like light, we can't be broken, even when we bend.

As one, we will defeat both despair and disease.  
We stand with healthcare heroes and all employees;  
With families, libraries, schools, waiters, artists;  
Businesses, restaurants, and hospitals hit hardest.

We ignite not in the light, but in lack thereof,  
For it is in loss that we truly learn to love.  
In this chaos, we will discover clarity.  
In suffering, we must find solidarity.

For it's our grief that gives us our gratitude,  
Shows us how to find hope, if we ever lose it.  
So ensure that this ache wasn't endured in vain:  
Do not ignore the pain. Give it purpose. Use it.

Read children's books, dance alone to DJ music.  
Know that this distance will make our hearts grow fonder.  
From a wave of woes our world will emerge stronger.

We'll observe how the burdens braved by humankind  
Are also the moments that make us humans kind;  
Let every dawn find us courageous, brought closer;  
Heeding the light before the fight is over.

When this ends, we'll smile sweetly, finally seeing  
In testing times, we became the best of beings.



**Social Justice: Out in the South Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Summit 2021**  
The Second Annual Summit sponsored by **The LGBTQ Center of Bay County.**

OUT IN THE SOUTH 2021  
*Guest Speakers*

**NADINE SMITH**  
EQUALITY FLORIDA

**ELIZABETH CURLEY**  
FSU DOCTORAL STUDENT

**DYLAN EVERETT**  
NATIONAL GUARD VETERAN

**BRANDON WOLF**  
THE DRU PROJECT

**EMILY GRAY**  
NSA PC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**ANTHONY STOWERS**  
FSU DOCTORAL STUDENT

**STUDENT**  
BAY DISTRICT SCHOOLS

**LARALYN JOI COLLINS**  
OPERATION EMBRACE ME

**RON MARASCO**  
WJHG NEWS ANCHOR

**KRISTEN BANE**  
FSU PC ALUMNI



**Date and Time: Saturday, February 6, 2021**  
**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM CST**

**Have questions, need more details, like to register? Reply To: LGBTQ Center of Bay County**  
[president@lgbtqcenterofbaycounty.org](mailto:president@lgbtqcenterofbaycounty.org)

## **Announcements:**

Poetry Reading: We are celebrating the power of poetry to inspire, reflect, make us cry, laugh and feel deeply. Members of our Fellowship will read selections they find meaningful and would like to share with the rest of us. We still have openings on the presentation schedule for a few more readers on Poetry Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. You can participate by reading in person at the UU Fellowship, or remotely via ZOOM from your home. If you present remotely you will be given a link and an Order of Service so you will know when you are reading. Bob Gilmore will be the Service Leader. Please let him know if you would like to present a poem or two. Contact Bob at 850-819-6562 or [gilzach@yahoo.com](mailto:gilzach@yahoo.com).

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



**Sunday Worship Services:** Our virtual Worship Service begins at 10:30 AM. We invite you to join us on Zoom 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!

Click on this link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI> **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.

***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 24th Penni Beitzel “Imagine No COVID Fear”***

Penni Beitzel is a professor of Microbiology at Gulf Coast State College teaching future healthcare students about infectious disease. She has been a microbiologist for 35 years, also working in clinical microbiology in the hospital system. Ms. Beitzel has led numerous women's bible study groups over the years as she blended her faith with science. She has always been fascinated by epidemiology so she follows the COVID crisis with great interest.

***January 31<sup>st</sup> Cindy Wilker “Detours – Adapting without Losing Love, Joy and Hope”***

Cindy served in the U.S. Marine Corps and worked in private banking for more than 20 years. She has a Master's degree with a focus on Environmental and Social Justice and is a deeply committed advocate for the LGBTQ community. She is one of the founders and now president of the LGBTQ Center of Bay County, the first and only Center of its kind in the Panhandle of Florida.

***February 2021 Monthly Theme, “Beloved Community”***

*The practice of bending the arc of the universe toward justice.*

*The practice of recognizing inherent worth.*

*The practice of dismantling the structures that divide us.*

*The practice of transforming opponents into friends.*

***February 7<sup>th</sup> Reverend Tiffany Sapp “Beloved Differences”***

The theory of multiple intelligences launches us into an exploration of the different gifts we bring to our Beloved Community. Figuring out the ways we've been called to work together within our diversity, and holding what unites us as a community within our differences, will strengthen our justice work and the bonds of our community. With a little help from Dungeons and Dragons and the latest Trolls movie.

***February 14<sup>th</sup> Paul McAuliffe “Cupid's Arrows and Love Handles”***

The Bay Storytellers' Valentine's Day program will be presented by tellers Pat Nease, Megghan McDougall, and Paul McAuliffe. Members of Bay Storytellers have been sharing stories in and around Bay County, Florida for nearly twenty years, telling at senior centers, schools, festivals, civic organizations, and seasonal events.