

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



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A Welcoming Congregation
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Saturday, March 20, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 22, July 2020-June 2021

Greetings and Good Wishes to all of our members,

Today is officially the first day of spring and it is a blessing to welcome its arrival. Spring is a time for renewal and rebirth for our spirit. It is a time to recommit with newly generated enthusiasm to the things that are important to us. It is time to shake off our long hibernation, feel the pull of the earth generously sharing its wealth of radiant sunshine, gently warmer breezes and raucous blooms. It is time once again, to sow the seeds of our faith and tend our spiritual garden. Let's all recommit to our faith, our Fellowship and our work to support it. Let's enjoy the beautiful outdoors as the wisteria blooms. Let's recognize that nature's interdependent web of all existence holds the promise for a better tomorrow. Many blessings,



Wisteria in bloom 3/19/21

Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

*Bob Gilmore
Lynne Siegfried
Janet Cross*

*John Shaffer
Bob Nixon
Matt Raver*



Here's a shout out to Lynne Siegfried who always celebrates St. Patrick's Day by playing the bagpipes. This past week was no exception. Pictured is Lynne two years ago on Beck Avenue in St. Andrews on St. Patrick's Day.



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 of the service. 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, thanks for being with us!

Hold the control (ctrl) button on your device and click on this Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI>

"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.

March 2021 ***Monthly Theme "Commitment"***

The practice of being loyal to something larger than yourself.

The practice of loving even when it is hard.

The practice of making, breaking and re-making our promises.

March 21st ***Serena Dee Latiolais*** ***"But I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep"***

Serena Dee, a long-time member of UUFBC, will explore thoughts on the nature, power, and value of commitment.

March 28th ***Reverend Hurto*** ***"Is There Still a Commonweal?"***

The nation is described as bitterly divided, the culture wars have escalated with nearly everyone feeling their point of view is "cancelled" or vilified. As a people of faith, do we really believe the "beloved community" is a viable and valid notion? How are we caught up in the zeitgeist of "you're on my side or you're my enemy."

April 2021 ***Monthly Theme "Becoming"***

The practice of discovering that inside you which wants to be born.

The practice of no longer hiding.

The practice of continual growth.

April 4th ***Reverend Tiffany Sapp*** ***"Who Shall We Become? A UU Easter Reflection"***

The metaphor of emerging from a tomb seems especially apt to our human experience this year as vaccines are rolling out and we feel like the worst *might* be over. How has our time in the tomb helped us prepare for this fresh time of emergence? And what will we do with it?

Need Information?

Contact the Fellowship at info@uufbaycounty.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. Also let us know if you have an idea or an article you would like to submit for publication in the E-News.



Joys and Concerns:

Please keep Fred and Georgia Beauchemin in your thoughts as they continue to deal with Fred's ever more challenging health concerns. They remain in New Orleans where Fred is undergoing treatment.

Social Justice: Florida State Legislature

The Florida Legislature is in full swing and Bills are passing through the committee process and arriving on the floor of the House and Senate for a vote. This week, Bills will likely be voted on that have received ACTION ALERT status as designated by our state level UU activists, the UU Justice Florida Action Network.

House Bills Placed on Calendar for Vote (3/25)

[HB 1](#), [HB 259](#) and [HB 7005](#) have passed out of committee and have been placed on the House Calendar to be voted on as early as this Thursday, March 25. Urge Representative Trumbull to vote NO on [HB 1](#), [HB 259](#) and [HB 7005](#)

HB 1 Combating Public Disorder Fernandez-Barquin (SB 484)

Enacts heavy-handed punishments designed to curb free speech and silence dissent. State and federal laws currently address rioting, insurrection, treason, assault, and battery.

HB 259 Safety of Religious Institutions Williamson (SB 498)

Authorizes a concealed weapons or firearms licensee to carry a firearm on certain property of a church, a synagogue, or any other religious institution. Proliferation of weapons is a threat to the safety of all.

HB 7005 COVID-19-related Claims Against Health Care Providers Burton (SB 74)

Shields health care providers that ignore safety protocols from being held responsible and accountable for negligence and failure to protect employees and customers from spread of Covid related illnesses. Erodes consumer confidence in long-term care.

Senate Bills Placed on Calendar for Vote (3/25 or 3/26)

[SB 48](#), [SB 100](#) and [SB 264](#) have all passed their respective committees and may be up for votes on the Senate floor as early as this Thursday or Friday, March 25 or 26. Email or call Senator Gainer and urge Senator Gainer to vote NO on [SB 48](#), [SB 100](#) and [SB 264](#).

SB 48 Educational Scholarship Programs Diaz

School voucher programs divert funds from public schools to unregulated private schools that do not meet state teacher credentials, or academics, can offer religious instruction and may discriminate against gay students.

SB 100 Highway Projects Harrell

Replaces M-CORES with other toll roads and limited-access projects that threaten the environment and are unwarranted drains on the state budget.

SB 264 Intellectual Freedom in Postsecondary Education Rodrigues (HB 233)

Requires Florida colleges and universities to conduct annual assessments related to intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity. May infringe on academic freedom.

Contact Information:

Senator George Gainer, gainer.george.web@flsenate.gov or 850-487-5002

Representative Jay Trumbull, jtrumbull@myfloridahouse.gov or 850-914-6300.



Special Tribute:

Many of us have special family members who have been quarantined along with us and helped us endure the isolation we have been experiencing every day. I invite you to share pictures of your special one (or more than one!) and a little commentary about them...maybe what you most appreciated about their being there with you. Send your fun facts, stories and pictures to jnshaffer@aol.com and we will share, enjoy and pay tribute to them in the E-News.

Our special friend is Blondie, a terrier of some sort, who may be about seven years old. No one knows for sure because she was a pound puppy. We laugh that she is a Daddy's girl, but it is worth noting that she is up late, helping me write this. Blondie joined our family five years ago and has adapted well to our lifestyle, or perhaps we have adapted well to hers. We have discovered that she doesn't like to play catch, but does like to pose for pictures. She is a ham, with or without props. Here's the proof...
Jo and John

Blondie makes us laugh out loud and that is the best anecdote to the pandemic for us. Thank you, Blondie!



Please continue to wear your mask, stay safe and be well.

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