

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



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A Welcoming Congregation

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Saturday, April 17, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 24, July 2020-June 2021

*Greetings and Good Wishes to all of our members,*

*In a continuing effort to adjust well and safely to the environment in which we find ourselves, the Board is constantly contemplating how best to maintain the Fellowship and conduct its business. It is rapidly approaching the time of year when, for many years, our congregation has held the Annual Meeting. It is not only our custom but it is described in our Bylaws also. For the first time in 2020, we postponed our Annual Meeting until October, unsure of the future and not wanting to ask our membership to risk exposure to the corona virus by coming together, and not wanting to make binding decisions in the wake of the brand new pandemic. Nor were we yet articulate in the language of Zoom and thus were not ready to hold a virtual meeting. No one supposed that this virus would take over as it has and that now, an entire year later, that planning and decision-making would still be made difficult and complicated by the effects of the pandemic.*

*The Board discussed another Annual Meeting postponement, but has decided to move forward with UUFBC's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to restore stability, consistency and compliance with our Bylaws, the Fellowship will hold this meeting. Most of our members have been vaccinated. We will wear masks, socially distance and, if the weather cooperates, meet outdoors. We will also have the Sunday service and Annual Meeting on Zoom for those who would prefer to continue greater isolation by participating from home.*

*We elect Board Officers and At-Large members at our Annual Meeting. The Bylaws also prescribe the election of Leadership Development Committee (LDC) members. Now is the time to come forward and contact me if you will consider serving the Fellowship in this capacity. The Bylaws, available on our website, "UUofBayCounty.com" are the guidance for the Fellowship's elections. We will publish more information and nominations prior to the Annual Meeting. Please save the date! Your participation in the Annual Meeting, the ongoing governance and the financial administration of our Fellowship is critically important.*

*Finally, next time you see a Board member, thank them for their service. Being a Board member is a commitment of time and focus of attention. It is always a significant responsibility. But it has been made more challenging these past months by all of the questions and issues that go along with guiding our congregation through the pandemic. Board members always deserve our praise and support, but certainly never more than now.*

*Jo Shaffer, LDC Chairperson  
[jnshaffer@aol.com](mailto:jnshaffer@aol.com)*

*Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County*

*Bob Gilmore  
Lynne Siegfried  
Janet Cross*

*John Shaffer  
Bob Nixon  
Matt Raver*



**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.

**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 18<sup>th</sup>      Jane Nichols      "On Becoming Jesus"**

Jane was born in New York but grew up in California, worked in the civil rights movement, political campaigns and in the government. One of the first things Jane and her husband John did, when they retired to Bay County, was to seek out this UU congregation and they are happy to be here.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>      Jan Booher      "An Inescapable Network of Mutuality"**

Jan will present the intersectionality of Social Justice and Climate Change, using UU work in Florida to show where UUs and their allies are called to stand with low-income people of color in the face of climate change.

**May 2021      Monthly Theme "Story"**

*The practice of living by narratives of our own making.*

*The practice of reclaiming memory and remembering ourselves.*

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>      Reverend Tiffany Sapp      "Awe is Calling"**

There are moments in life that are so Awe-Inspiring that the only response is "Wow." In today's worship service Reverend Sapp will explore how Awe can call us to transformation, and then we will get a chance to share our own stories of Awe during this interactive Zoom service. If you wish, come prepared to share your own "Wow" story.

**May 24<sup>th</sup>      Annual Meeting      SAVE THE DATE!**

**Need Information?** Contact the Fellowship at [info@uufbaycounty.com](mailto: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 article, a poem or a picture that you would like to submit for publication in the E-News.



**Joys and Concerns:** We wish Bob McNeal a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. We welcome Fred Beauchemin home after his stay in New Orleans for medical treatment. We send best wishes to Diane Mouskourie who was hospitalized this past week. We hope Susie Sizemore is doing well. We are thinking of each other and wishing everyone good health and wellness.

**Social Justice: Municipal Election and School Tax Decision**

**Election Day voting** is Tuesday, April 20 at your assigned precinct. If you vote on Election day, you must vote in your assigned precinct. Check your sample ballot that was mailed to you to know where to vote, or call the Supervisor of Elections office at 784-6100, or check the website at [bayvotes.org](http://bayvotes.org)

**Gun violence:** April 20 is also the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the mass school shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado. We mark this anniversary every year with sadness and the vow to continue raising our voices against laws and policies that allow gun violence to flourish.

**Poet's Corner** Knowing how much our congregation enjoys "Poetry Sunday", we want to continue to enjoy poetry with a Poet's Corner in the E-News. If you have a favorite poem you would like to submit, or if you would like to write a poem for us, just send in your selection.

April is the month when we celebrate the earth and rejoice in its miracles large and small. We mark International Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the birthdays of John Muir on April 21<sup>st</sup> and John James Audubon on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The following selection, written by Theodore Roethke, was published in 1991 in Earth Prayers from Around the World and is offered in their honor.

*Untitled*

*It is neither spring nor summer. It is Always,  
With towhees, finches, chickadees, California quail, wood doves,  
With wrens, sparrows, juncos, cedar waxwings, flickers,  
With Baltimore orioles, Michigan bobolinks,  
And those birds forever dead,  
The passenger pigeon, the great auk, the Carolina parakeet.  
All birds remembered; O never forgotten!  
All in my yard, of a perpetual Sunday,  
All morning! All morning!*



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

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