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A Welcoming Congregation
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Saturday, June 19, 2021 **UUFBC E-News** Edition 28, July 2020-June 2021

Greetings and good wishes to all of our members,

The Board is pleased to share an update with you on its mission to engage a part-time minister. The Board committee assigned to this task has met in person with Reverend Ruth Vann Lilian, an ordained Unitarian minister, and is in the process of discussing the opportunity to have her ministerial services at one-quarter time. The meeting was a productive one with a discussion centered around the potential services to be provided by Reverend Ruth, in addition to the Sunday message once a month in person and once a month remotely. Additional services, such as pastoral care, are under consideration. Reverend Ruth could attend some meetings of the Board and the Worship Committee also in person or remotely. The committee will report back to the full Board at its next meeting. The Board hopes to have a ministerial services contract in place by the end of July for services that begin in September. The Board has previously stated that it plans to open Fellowship Hall for in-person services in September.

Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County

Bob Gilmore

John Shaffer

Lynne Siegfried

Bob Nixon

Janet Cross

Matt Raver

Need Information? Contact the Fellowship at info@uuofbaycounty.com or call us at 850-615-4127 for more information about our services or events, 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 Sunday 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 this newsletter.



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.

Upcoming Sunday Services:

June 2021 Monthly UUA “Soul Matters” Theme “Play”

The practice of remembering we can write our own rules.

The practice of using escape to restore our freedom.

The practice of returning to joy.

June 20th Janis Lucas “Juneteenth”

Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Join us to learn more about this annual event and its importance to America.

June 27th Joanne Witherford “Keeping PCB Beautiful”

Despite Bay County's lack of public recycling programs, many people in our community support the idea of recycling in whatever ways we can. We'll hear from JoAnn Weatherford, founder of “Keep Panama City Beach Beautiful”, on ways that you can help reduce the impact our waste has on the planet. You may be surprised at how many options there are around town that you never knew!

July 4th Candis Harbison “Protecting Our Shorebirds”

In lieu of our regular Sunday Service, we invite you to join us for an outing to help protect shorebirds along the beach. We will not have a Zoom Service or Facebook Live post. For more information see pages 3 and 4 of this E-News.



Environmental Justice: In support of UU's 7th Principle, the interdependent web of all existence, please consider the environmental issues that are being proposed as constitutional amendments, especially giving the Rights of Nature legal standing in the courts. Share this link, FL5.org, with your friends and family that are registered Florida voters. FL5.org is seeking to put five conservation amendments on the 2022 ballot. **In order to do this, our goal is 900,000 signed and dated petitions by February 1, 2022.** I have become involved with this project in Deland. Check it out! Cheryl Kellogg

Companion's Corner: **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**

*Cheryl Kellogg and George Stephenson's
Natural Outdoor Companion*



Environmental Justice: Protecting Endangered Shorebirds Event

3 species of endangered shorebirds nest on nearby beaches: Least Terns (which fly all the way up here from South America to nest), Snowy Plovers (whose numbers are reduced to about 250 pairs in Florida), and Black Skimmers (who have a unique method of dragging their bills through water to catch fish). State and federal wildlife agencies have roped off some of their nesting areas to attempt to protect them, but on crowded beach days, people, children, dogs, beach balls, kites, frisbees, etc. provide a serious threat. Eggs and chicks are camouflaged and almost impossible to see, and the eggs and chicks are subject to predation or overheating if the adults are frightened away.



Protecting Endangered Shorebirds Event, continued:

Volunteers are needed to sit near the nesting areas and warn people away from them if they violate the space. Most people are delighted to be educated about the birds and look at pictures of the birds that are behind the ropes. Members of UUFBC have the opportunity to help guard the colony at Camp Helen State Park on the 4th of July by spending a couple of hours at the beach.

Meet at the UU Fellowship at 10:30 AM and bring a beach chair to sit on, your usual beach paraphernalia (sunscreen, hat, water), towel (yes, plan on cooling off in the water!), and binoculars if you have some. Candis Harbison will be the leader of the expedition and she will provide pictures of the birds to show beachgoers. We will carpool out to Phillips Inlet and stay for a couple of hours. To avoid having to carry heavy food, bring a bag lunch to eat in the car on the way to the park. The walk across the sand is about 100-300 feet.

Much more information about the birds is available at this website:

<https://myfwc.com/media/1658/beachnestingbirdsbrochure.pdf>



Stay safe and be well.

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