

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



A Welcoming Congregation
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Greetings to all of our members. We are pleased that Reverend Ruth will be joining us in-person soon and that she will be available to meet with anyone who would like to talk with her. Please refer to Reverend Ruth's message below. Many blessings to all, The UUFBC Board of Directors: Bob Gilmore, John Shaffer, Lynne Siegfried, Bob Nixon, Janet Cross, and Matt Raver.



Reverend Ruth's Reflections

Hello Bay County UUs,

I am so pleased to be joining you as your new minister! I know current conditions continue to challenge us, but we shall not be thwarted in our shared ministry together! We are the Unitarian Universalist presence here and we have much to do!

I will be in your midst several days each month, and available by email, text and phone anytime you need me.

This month, I will hold office hours at the church Thurs and Fri, Aug 26 & 27, 10:00 - 2:00. We can meet by phone or in person (masked). I also have time available in the evenings or on the weekend. Please call or text 205-218-1666 to make an appointment.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you soon and learning how I can be of service to you!

Warmly,
Rev. Ruth





Events: *Chipola River Paddle held last Sunday, August 8th* by Charissa Thacker

Sunday, Aug 8th found a group of spirited UUs floating along the Chipola River. With no Sunday Services for the first three weeks of August, this activity was planned to get members outside and reconnected with the sacred natural resources that we're so lucky to have at our fingertips. We didn't light a chalice, but we definitely were feeling a spirit on Sunday morning!

Clearly there are still signs of Hurricane Michael, but nature is doing what nature does and reclaiming her land. Many of the trees along the river bed fell so that their web of tangled roots towered over the river creating huge works of, *what I'm going to call*, abstract root mandalas, LOL.



Along the way we were welcomed by an array of turtles, trout, dragonflies and beautiful birds. Thankfully, we didn't seem to disturb the birds much and enjoyed the sight of each and every one as we paddled by, like the gorgeous Great Egrets, who were often feather to feather with their little buddies, the Ibis. In the distance Candis was able to identify the call of a Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, and we even saw a Red Breasted Woodpecker for a quick flit!

But the Chipola River was the real sight to behold and granted us a memorable alternative to our weekly service.





Events continued

Game Night

The UUFBC Board of Directors has postponed Game Night due to the resurgence of the COVID virus and its variants in our community. The good health of our members is our first priority. We hope to reschedule Game Night soon.

Worship Services Please Note: There will be no Sunday worship services on August 15th or 22nd. The next virtual service will be held on August 28th with Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian. Given the current COVID infection and hospitalization rates, **we are not going to meet in-person at our Fellowship for the service** or for a potluck dinner following the service. However, Reverend Ruth does plan on being in Panama City and will be live from the UUFBC pulpit. The service will be carried on Zoom and Facebook. Rev Ruth will be available for individual meetings, with masks on, while she is here. (See Reverend Ruth's Reflections on page 1). We will be reevaluating the situation from month to month. Please be patient and do not let your guard down.

August 29th

Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian

"The Reverend Bellwether"

What does a parish minister do exactly? We've been without a minister for a while and maybe we've been doing OK. Or maybe not? Now that we've got a minister, what can we expect of her and what does she expect of us?

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.

Stewardship of the Earth: Yesterday, August 13, 2021, the Washington Post carried an article announcing that July 2021 was the earth's hottest month ever recorded according to NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That includes all of the last 142 years of record keeping. NOAA determined the land surface temperature was 2.77 degrees above average, the largest departure ever observed for the month.

The heat has not slowed down in August. Just this past week, a weather station in Sicily recorded Europe's new all-time high heat at 119.8 degrees.

Let us redouble our efforts to address the earth's distress in accordance with our 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". Let's each participate in climate justice in whatever way we are able.

Stay Safe and Be Well

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