

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Fellowship of Bay County



A Welcoming Congregation
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Reverend Ruth's Reflections

Hello Bay County UUs!

I am in Birmingham for a few days to celebrate son Angus' 19th birthday! When I arrived, I discovered that a large oak tree on the hillside above our house fell across the corner of our back yard. No harm done but it startled husband Bill out of a sound sleep.

Two years ago, another tree on the same hillside hit the corner of our house and poked a hole through roof and ceiling into our kitchen. So, this week we are breathing a sigh of relief!

We don't own the land these trees, and others, are growing on, and we get no hints when healthy-looking oaks are going to fall over? The ground has been very wet and the autumn winds are blowing the branches around. We've been here 15 years and no problem until 2019.

Life is full of unpredictable crises. Living through a pandemic has certainly brought that point home for all of us. And to live life completely risk-free would be, for me, buying a house on a lot with no trees nearby, which would be sad because I really like trees!. All of us might choose to shut ourselves away from one another and avoid all social contact. Oh wait, we did that to some extent last year.

Mitigating risk comes with a cost and taking risks also has consequences. We're all trying to figure out, from day to day, whether the benefits outweigh the risks or vice versa. The UUFBC Board members and I have this in mind as we continue to weigh the benefits and consequences of re-opening our church building for in-person services and activities.

There are no easy answers, but we are doing our best to protect the interests of our people and needs of our congregation. Let's hang in there, Friends. I heard a seasoned epidemiologist say yesterday that pandemics do not last forever, and this one will lose steam and recede but it's hard to predict exactly when.

The most important elements of our cohesiveness - respect, commitment, friendship and love - do not require physical proximity. We can hold on a while longer and find connection via virtual means!

I will be in PC Saturday through Thursday, September 25th – September 30th. If you'd like to talk or meet with me, please call 205-218-1666 to set up an appointment.

I have faith in you, and I know you have faith in one another!

In wisdom and grace,
Rev. Ruth





Virtual Worship Services: Reverend Ruth will be live from the UUFBC pulpit for this week's virtual service held at 10:30 AM and carried on Zoom. The Zoom link is: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI>

September 25th *Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian* *"Canoeing Against the Current"*

We are the religious descendants of heretics who, by definition, hold opinions at odds with what is generally accepted. We hold the unique identity of being a church that welcomes a variety of life-affirming beliefs under one roof, and we find ourselves moving against historical and social trends which run counter to the values we affirm in our UU Principles. How can we help one another stay true to our free faith when we find ourselves canoeing against the current?

October 3rd *Ken Sizemore* *"The Second UU Principle"*

Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations will be expressed musically by Ken Sizemore, an established and much-loved musician, singer and songwriter. And Ken is a UU too!

Joys and Concerns:

Please keep Bob McNeal in your thoughts as he contends with his ongoing health issues. Drop him a line or give him a call.

If you have not yet said your goodbyes to John and Jane Nichols, then hurry to do so. They will be off to their new residence in North Carolina in just a few days. We wish them well on their next chapter!

Announcements: **Adult Education Opportunity**

Reverend Ruth will offer an online class on "Unsung Heroes of Unitarian and Universalist History" which will meet every other week beginning in October for four sessions. Please email her at her address, uurevruth@gmail.com, to sign up. Days and times to be determined.

Social Justice:





Women's March for Reproductive and Civil Rights

The Women's March is returning to sponsor a national rally next Saturday, October 2nd in support of reproductive rights. Marches will be held in every state, just two days before the U S Supreme Court begins its October term. More than 90 national civic organizations have pledged their support. The need for this march became apparent when the state of Texas adopted legislation banning abortions after six weeks and giving Texans the power to sue abortion providers and all those who help women with the process of obtaining abortions. The US Supreme Court upheld the Texas legislation by a vote of 5 to 4.

Unitarian Universalist social justice activists will be participating in our local event to be held on October 2nd at 11:00 AM. To be a part of this important demonstration in support of women's right to choose, please join us at the **Hathaway Bridge/Carl Gray Park this coming Saturday. To keep everyone safe, attorneys and off-duty police will be on-site. Cherie Crimm is our local event organizer.**



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.

Stay Safe and Be Well

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