



A Welcoming Congregation  
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Saturday, November 6, 2021

**UUFBC E-News** Edition 10, July 2021-June 2022



## *An Invitation to Thanksgiving Dinner*

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

*The UUFBC Board of Directors is happy to announce that our Fellowship will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner at 3:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. UU will be providing the turkey, but one or more volunteers are needed to cook it. There will be a sign-up sheet for other dishes to include potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, bread, salad and dessert. Please let us know how many are in your party so we know how to set the table. There is always room at our table, so come join us. We are looking forward with gratitude to this opportunity to celebrate, share a meal, and be together.*

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

*Bob Gilmore*

*John Shaffer*

*Lynne Siegfried*

*Bob Nixon*

*Janet Cross*

*Matt Raver*





## *Reverend Ruth's Reflections*

Hello Bay County UUs!

A giant inflatable Santa went up Tuesday next door to my lodgings. I laughed out loud as I walked past, but it was a slightly nervous laugh.

I haven't been able to freely enjoy Christmas since I was in college. When I began working in a church, I discovered that before Christmas (Advent) is the busiest time of the year for religious professionals. With such seasonal increases to the demands on my time and energy, things like choral singing, shopping and cooking all became burdens and things to get done and get through.

Fortunately, I remembered the secret knowledge of the formal church calendar: Christmas takes place over 12 days (hence the song). I learned to enjoy Christmas carols, food, presents and parties stretched out from Dec 26 to Jan 5! I expect to do the same this year!

I pass this idea on to all of you. Have your party after Christmas Day! Buy, wrap and open presents afterward when the sales are on! Cook your feast and stretch out your leftovers. Put your feet up and listen to beautiful music. When people raise eyebrows, say with a shrug, "Talk to me on Epiphany. It's still Christmas at my house!"

Have a blessed November!

In wisdom and grace,  
*Rev. Ruth*

### **Need Information?**

Contact the Fellowship at [info@uuofbaycounty.com](mailto: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.

And remember, Rev. Ruth invites you to contact her at 205-218-1666 whenever you need a pastoral ear!



## **Worship Services LIVE at our Fellowship:**

The UUA Soul Matters theme for November is **HOLDING HISTORY**. The 2021-22 themes focus on our relationship with our times, and on some of the central work and spiritual practices needed during this period of radical change, challenge, crisis and opportunity.

**November 7th**                      **Bob Gilmore**    ***“Let It Be a Dance”***

Bob will share his personal interpretation of the words from the song “Let It Be A Dance” and how those words have had special meaning for him in his life.

**November 14th**                      **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian**    ***“Pick a Holiday”***

From Thanksgiving through New Years, we are offered and sometimes overwhelmed by a series of holiday options. As Unitarian Universalists it may seem like a smorgasbord of celebrations, and it is tempting to try them all. What are holidays really about and how can we find spiritual nourishment amid the flurry and frenzy of the season?

**November 21st**                      **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian** *(prerecorded)*    ***“A Hole or a Skylight”***

Life is full of problems from small inconveniences to major disasters and losses. How can we maintain our optimism and hold onto hope without trivializing suffering? Do we patch the hole in the roof or turn it into a skylight?

**November 28th**                      **Alicia Simmons**    ***“The Spirit of Laughter”***

Alicia Simmons, actress and comedian, will be giving a presentation focused on her journey through the pain of losing her family at the age of twelve to becoming the person and comedian she is today.

We will meet in-person (masked and distanced) in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM each Sunday. The Board wants to do everything possible to ensure the good health of those attending in-person. Please do not attend in person if you are not feeling well or have any symptoms of COVID. Children will have a program provided for them in a separate room.

Please note: While we are now offering worship services in person, we will continue to offer each service on Zoom, just as we have been doing every Sunday. Join us by 10:25 AM using the Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI> for all UUFBC virtual services.

One more thing: Don't forget to reset your clocks tonight. Fall back one hour.



## **Social Justice: UUA position statement on Texas Senate Bill 8 Limiting Reproductive Rights**

“Right now, abortion is effectively illegal in the state of Texas as Texas SB 8 remains in effect. Millions of people cannot access critical, often life-saving reproductive health care. Medical providers are living in fear of being sued for treating their patients. And private citizens have been deputized as vigilantes, receiving bounties for bringing lawsuits against anyone who “aids or abets” the provision of abortion services to anyone after 5-6 weeks of gestation.

As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace the reproductive justice framework, which espouses the human right to have children, not to have children, to parent the children one has in healthy environments, and to safeguard bodily autonomy and to express one’s sexuality freely. Rooted in these values, we unequivocally declare that SB 8, and any law that attempts to criminalize reproductive freedom, including abortion care, is morally wrong.” *Unitarian Universalist Association, November 2021*

## **Joys and Concerns: Meal Schedule for the Sizemores**

Ken and Susie Sizemore send their thanks to all. Their spirits have been lifted by the outpouring of support and kindness extended to them. Susie is back at home now and the best way we can continue to help is by supplying meals a couple times a week. Thanks to Janet Cross, we have a meal schedule and it can be managed electronically, so we can all check it at any time. Please take a look and sign-up if you’re able. Meals are scheduled to begin on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Anything you would like to provide will be appreciated. Ken and Susie like all types of food and have no special dietary restrictions. They enjoy Italian, Japanese, and everything in between, including casseroles from your kitchen. The website is <https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/AYMM8735>

**Salute to Veterans:** In a few days, it will be Veteran’s Day and we will honor the brave Americans who have served our country. Their legacy lives on in the freedom we cherish and the peace we enjoy.



*Stay Safe and Be Well*

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