



A Welcoming Congregation
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Reverend Ruth's Reflections

Hello Bay County UUs!

The New Year always inspires mixed emotions for me:

What did I leave unfinished? What opportunities have now expired?

What are my goals and priorities for the new year? What could I achieve or experience if I plan and pay attention and the universe opens the right doors?

What contribution can I make to make the world a little better?

What if this year turns out to be my last? What do I want or need to do before I die that I have been putting off? Is this the time to do it?

I hope we all can remember something in 2021 for which we are thankful, and I hope we can all imagine something meaningful to come in 2022.

The good news is that we are still traveling together! Happy New Year!

In wisdom & grace,

Rev. Ruth





Worship Services at our Fellowship:

Our Soul Matters theme for January is **“LIVING WITH INTENTION”**. Monthly themes focus on our relationship with our times, and on the central work and spiritual practices needed during this period of radical change, challenge, crisis and opportunity.

January 2nd **Chris May** **“Breathing into the Past; Bringing Renewal into the New Year”**

Paul McAuliffe joins Chris May for music and meditation. As we enter 2022, let's take some time to reflect and renew.

January 9th **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian** *prerecorded* **“The Beauty of Darkness”**

We have entered the season of long, cold nights. Is there a connection between our retreat from the dark and our cultural history of aversion to dark skin? Let's explore the anti-blackness which permeates our society, how it affects all of us, and what we might do to re-imagine darkness and blackness as beautiful and blessed.

January 16th **Matthew Shack** **“A Community Retrospective: the NAACP Then and Now”**

On this Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, we assess our community and the leaders who have helped strengthen and unite us, with an emphasis on the NAACP and its role in facilitating positive change.

Please note: We will meet in-person (masked and distanced) in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 AM each Sunday. 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.

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

Food Pantry:

The UUFBC Board and congregation has decided to extend our support for our neighbor, the Grace Presbyterian Church, and continue to collect nonperishable food items for their Food Pantry. As the need in our community is ongoing, our assistance will be ongoing also. Please remember those who count on the Presbyterian Food Pantry to keep food on the table, and bring a little something for the Food Donation Box by the front door when you attend a worship service or event at our Fellowship.

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. Reverend Ruth invites you to contact her at 205-218-1666 whenever you need a pastoral ear. 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.



Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar!

Game Night

January 9th is Game Night! We will gather at **6:30 PM** to play "Left, Center, Right" which is a pass the dice game...no skill required. Join your UU friends and bring some more friends for an evening of light-hearted fun. We will have dessert on the deck, provided by Janet Cross, to kick off our evening of fun and games.

Masks will be required, seats will be spread out, and lots of hand sanitizer will be available! Everyone needs to bring \$2 worth of nickels. Contact Janet Cross for more information at janetcross77@gmail.com.

The UU Book Club

Join us as we read "Braided Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

January 19th at 6:30 PM - Book Club Virtual meeting on ZOOM

January 30th at 12 Noon - In person and virtual at the UUFBC

Contact Charissa Thacker Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com or Chris May chrysalis33333@gmail.com and you will be included in the Book Club communication.

What's New? **The Cultural Cooking Club**

The UUFBC is hosting a Cultural Cooking Club on Friday, **January 28th at 6:30pm**. UUs love to learn about the world and what better way than through FOOD! Each quarter we'll pick a new country, explore its cuisine and come together for a tasty potluck. Our first country is TURKEY! Start now to learn more about this uniquely positioned country and their cuisine. We'll be discussing Turkish cultural highlights so pick your dish and be ready to share on the night of our Potluck.

If you're planning to participate or have any questions, please contact Charissa Thacker at 850.814.5365 or charissa.thacker@yahoo.com

Save the Dates:

February 5th: Field Trip to Montgomery

We will visit the Legacy Museum to explore the history of racism in our country from slavery to mass incarceration. Plans for the trip are in process. Contact Charissa Thacker for more information.

February 12th: Yard Sale

The UUFBC Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday February 12th**. Doors open at **7:30 AM**. We'll set up on Thursday and, if needed, Friday before the sale. Set up will begin at 9 AM. Items may be dropped off at the Fellowship that week, or can be brought in on Sunday the 6th. Please think of us as you go through your closets and garage for resalable items. We can arrange for large items can be picked up. Please no clothes.

We will need volunteers to help with setting up and breaking down the sale. Contact Janet Cross, janetcross77@gmail.com, to volunteer or if you need assistance with sale items you are donating.



Pastoral Care: Meal Service

Member Diane Mouskourie and her mother have requested assistance with meals at this time due to her illness. The link to sign-up is www.TakeThemAMeal.com/ZTCA4028 or you can type in "Take Them A Meal" and her code is 4632. They would like meals two times a week on Tuesdays and Fridays. They are asking for very plain food and have no food allergies. Please contact Diane to confirm times for meal delivery at dmouskourie@gmail.com

Multiracial Unity Worship Services: January and February 2022

The Religious Professionals Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council is sponsoring "Third Wednesday" evening worship services at 7:00 PM Central time on the third Wednesday of each month in 2022. To get Zoom information, whether for the next Worship Service or those in subsequent months, please send your name, email address, and congregation (if any) to richard3point@gmail.com.

DATE: January 19

PREACHER: Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy

SERMON: "Medicine for Our Times ~ Living the Legacy of Howard Thurman"

DESCRIPTION: Howard Thurman's life and teachings are the perfect medicine for our times. Thurman was called, "a saint of the Civil Rights Movement", by Rep. John Lewis. Thurman was a universalist, a mystic, an outstanding preacher, a scholar and a professor at Howard University and also Boston University and one of the most influential African Americans of the last century. He had a profound impact on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. You're invited to join us as we learn from and let Thurman's insights, challenges and paradoxes wash over us with hope. Our contentious world so needs his wisdom and healing words today. Thurman wrote and preached on the power of Negro Spirituals and the Springfield, Vermont UU Meetinghouse Choir Director, Julane Deener and virtual choir, will join us with some great music for this journey.

DATE: February 16

PREACHER: Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels

SERMON: "Liberal Religion"

DESCRIPTION: Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion, not because of our progressive politics but because of our commitment to the ideals of liberalism. Liberalism in the classic sense is not an ideology, but a method for resolving conflict, gaining knowledge, and advancing toward truth. Our liberal approach to religion and to all that concerns us as religious people is a precious inheritance. Abandoning the principles of liberalism would mean losing an essential part of who we are.

Note: For past services, type "Third Wednesday UUMUAC services" in the YouTube search box.



Favorite Pictures of Good Friends, E-News 2021



Billie and Charissa



Bear (Bob McNeal)



TJ (Janet Cross)



Blondie (Jo and John Shaffer)



Yoda, Susie and Ken



Kane (Bob Nixon)



Magnolia

(Arlene Zacher and Bob Gilmore)

Stay Safe and Be Well. Happy New Year!

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