



A Welcoming Congregation
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UUFBC E-News Edition 21, July 2021-June 2022



Reverend Ruth's Reflections

Hello Bay County UUs!

I've been working on my tax returns, watching the news from Ukraine, catching up on housework and escorting family members to doctors and dentists for routine exams. Nothing like Spring Break to leave one exhausted!

Life does seem to be a long "to do" list sometimes, and I often feel like I barely cross things off before more are added on.

Determining what really matters and then focusing one's attention and energy on those things is a kind of spiritual practice. Many voices will criticize those choices, and try to drag us back to what is peripheral and less important.

I would hate one day for my eulogy to say more about how neat and tidy I kept things than how much I loved and cared. Fortunately, if you saw my house, you'd know there's no danger of that!

May your springtime be filled with significance and spiritual enrichment alongside any seasonal tasks you must address!

In wisdom and grace,

Rev. Ruth





From the Board

The UUFBC Board of Directors announces the “Growing in Generosity” 2022 Pledge Campaign.

This Sunday, April 10th, is the kickoff for our Annual Pledge Drive. The Drive will continue for 2 weeks with Sunday April 24th designated as the last day to turn in your pledge. Pledge packets will be handed out at our worship service, and if you are unable to attend, we will be happy to put yours in the mail. Pledges may be returned to the “Pledge Box” located in Fellowship Hall, or they may be returned by mail. All packets have an addressed envelope for your convenience. Pledges are confidential and are accepted and compiled by the Treasurer.

Pledge drives are not usually viewed as fun, although we will try to make it a little more fun this year. But they are a necessity! The Board takes the pledges and uses them as a basis to develop a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board must draft the budget and have it ready to be presented at our Annual Meeting in May.

We encourage you to attend the worship service this Sunday so that we may present your pledge packet in person, which would save on postage! Everyone who attends will be entered in the drawing for a door prize, given away on Sunday. Plus...we will have some great homemade treats after the worship service!! So, please come join us this Sunday and “Let’s achieve change together through the gift of giving.” Let’s grow in generosity as we grow our Fellowship.

The UUFBC Board of Directors respectfully requests that you review the status of your 2021 pledge.

As the Board begins to prepare a budget for the upcoming fiscal year, it has reviewed the 2021 budget and become aware that the Fellowship is facing a shortfall in this year’s pledge receipts. The Board is not asking members for more than each can comfortably afford. At the same time, the Fellowship’s ongoing operation depends on members fulfilling their financial commitments. If you find that you have some catching up to do, please take action soon as this fiscal year will be drawing to a close.

If you would like to check your pledge amount or the amount you have paid to date, contact Bob Nixon, UUFBC Treasurer, and he will provide you with the information. E-mail Bob at bobnixon2000@gmail.com Thank you for your help keeping our Fellowship on track.

The UUFBC Board of Directors announces NEW COVID Policy that is effective immediately.

The Board has re-evaluated the Fellowship’s COVID Policy in response to changing guidance and membership feedback. Effective immediately, masks are optional in Fellowship Hall, EXCEPT that masks are required when singing and during group recitation.

We will continue to maximize ventilation and fresh air circulation throughout the building. Please be sensitive to different comfort levels regarding socially distancing and respect others’ spatial boundaries.

Thank you for your support and cooperation,

The UUFBC Board of Directors: Bob Gilmore, John Shaffer, Lynne Siegfried, Bob Nixon, Janet Cross and Matt Raver



Worship Services at our Fellowship

Our Soul Matters theme for April is **“AWAKENING”**. 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.

April 10th **Cindy Gregory** **“Publishing Then and Now”**
Over the years, publishing barely changed until the twenty-first century. With the invention of personal computers, email, and e-readers, new avenues of publishing sprang up and flourished...until recently. Now the publishing biz is more like the Wild West. Join us on the journey from then until now, guided by our new member, Cindy Gregory.

April 17th **Ken Sizemore** **“Songs of Justice, Equity, and Compassion”**
This week’s service is a musical one, featuring our favorite troubadour, member Ken Sizemore. Ken will help us celebrate our 2nd UU Principle, Justice, Equity, and Compassion in Human Relations, through songs and narration to illustrate ways both large and small in which this principle is vitally important to our world and our own individual lives.

April 24th **Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian** **“Coulda, Shoulda, Woulda”**
When we take risks, we make mistakes, and then feel regret and sometimes remorse. Can we have a rich, full life without risks? When they ask what we did best, what shall we tell them? Reverend Ruth will be in Fellowship Hall for this service.

Zoom: You may also join us remotely this Sunday by using the Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3hWkhEI>
Please tune in by 10:25 am so you will be connected when the service begins at 10:30 am.

Note: If you join us in person this Sunday, plan to remain socially distanced. Masks are optional, but must be worn by those who sing or participate in the responsive reading. Please do not attend in person if you are not feeling well or have any COVID symptoms.

Have questions or need more 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.



Congratulations to New Members!



The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bay County is pleased to welcome new members Dirk Neitzel, Coba Neitzel, Jennifer Coleman (pictured center to right) and Cindy Gregory (not pictured).

Reverend Ruth Vann Lillian and John Shaffer led the New Member Ceremony and are also pictured.

UUFBC Upcoming Events

The UU Book Club

April is here and we are reading [Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel](#), by Carl Safina. Book Club will meet on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 pm by Zoom and again on Sunday, April 24th at noon in person after our worship service and by Zoom. For questions, more information, and to indicate your interest, contact Chris May at chrysalis33333@gmail.com. Chris will send an email with the Zoom link to those who have indicated an interest.

The Cultural Cooking Club

The destination for our second cultural potluck dinner is....[SRI LANKA!](#) Let's start Googling for yummy recipes and interesting cultural tidbits to share. We'll host dinner in Fellowship Hall on APRIL 29th at 6:30pm. *Fingers crossed, no storms this time!* All are invited to attend, but please RSVP and let Charissa know what dish you would like to bring. Contact Charissa at Charissa.Thacker@yahoo.com

Earth Day

Earth Day will be held at Oaks by the Bay Park in historic St. Andrews. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Our Fellowship will have a table again this year. Do you have some ideas for earth-related activities to offer at our table? Would you like to help set-up or staff the table? Janet Cross will be coordinating our participation. Contact Janet at janetcross77@gmail.com,

Other Events of Interest

The NAACP Poll Monitor Training

The NAACP Legal Defense Fund is providing training for those who would like to become nonpartisan poll monitors for the upcoming municipal elections on April 19, 2022 and for the upcoming primary and national elections later this summer and fall. Poll monitors are currently needed for Callaway, Panama City Beach, Mexico Beach and Springfield. Training dates: Tuesday, April 12 at 6 pm central and Saturday, April 16 at 12 noon central.

To register for training, click on the link: <https://bit.ly/EPVol22>



Other Events of Interest continued

The NAACP Candidates Forum

The Candidates Forum is scheduled for Monday, April 11 at 5:30 pm and will provide an opportunity to meet and question the candidates for the upcoming municipal elections. The invited candidates are seeking office in the city of Callaway or in the city of Springfield.

The meeting will be held on Zoom. Use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5536371339> If you prefer to attend by phone, the number is 312-626-6799 and the meeting ID is 553 637 1339.

Election Day VOTE! UU Principle 5 "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process..."
The 2022 Municipal Super Tuesday is fast approaching. This year's election will be held on Tuesday, April 19th. Early voting runs from Monday, April 11th through Friday, April 15th. The following locations will hold elections for the races listed.

Springfield:	Mayor, Ward 3, Ward 4
Callaway:	Ward 1, Ward 2
P C Beach:	Ward 1, Ward 3
Mexico Beach:	Group 4, Group5

If you would like more information, contact the Supervisor of Elections Office, Monday through Friday, 8 am until 5 pm, at 850-784-6100. You may also access the website <https://www.bayvotes.org>.

Joys and Concerns



It is a great joy for us to on April 7, 2022 by the United President, said "Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is an inspiration to millions. She inspires with her character, courage, competence, integrity, and brilliant legal mind. She will inspire generations to come, from the highest court in the land".

celebrate the historic confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson States Senate. Reverend Dr. Rufus Wood, NAACP Branch

Community Corner Family Services Agency

Recycle, Reuse, Reduce: Help the planet and our local community! UU Principle 7 "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part".

If you are wondering how you can recycle your aluminum cans and do some good; we have an answer! Bring your aluminum cans from home to the UUFBC. We will collect the cans and take them to Family Services. Family Services gets (almost) enough cash from cans to pay their electric bill.

Place clean cans (aluminum only) outdoors in the blue trash bin next to the dumpster, preferably in plastic bags. You may reuse your plastic grocery bags for this purpose. There is also a green can in Fellowship Hall by the entry door, that is available a couple cans at a time for your convenience.

Pray for Peace



"Slava Ukraini" (Glory to Ukraine)

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