

Nature Coast  
Unitarian Universalists

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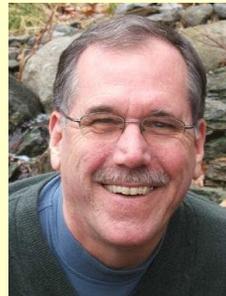


## 2015 Sunday Services

12/27/15

Rev Dr. Steve Burt

*A Christmas Dozen*



Steve shared some heart-warming stories from his bestselling collection, *A Christmas Dozen*. He used modern day parables to help us remember the true meaning of Christmas

Rev. Dr. Steve Burt is a member of the UU Fellowship of Marion County. A retired pastor, professor, and popular author, he spoke at Nature Coast in October on "Pious Profanity." His fiction and poetry have won him the Ray Bradbury and Bram Stoker Awards, the New England Book Festival Award, and most recently the Florida Book Festival Grand Prize. He and his wife split their year between The Villages, Florida and Wells, Maine. He'll have some of his 22 published book available for purchase after the service.

Rev Burt addressed the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

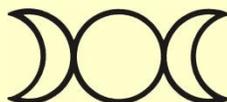
1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



**12/20/15 Earth-Centered Spirituality Circle Small Group Ministry:  
*Mythic Interpretations of Natural Phenomena as the Triple Goddess and the Lord of the Greenwood***

The Winter Solstice is one of the oldest winter celebrations known. Ceremonies and rituals celebrating the rebirth of the sun can be seen in many cultures throughout history. These winter solstice traditions typically personified naturally occurring phenomena as Goddesses and Gods who mitigated anxieties and fear during the coldest, darkest days of the year and gave people hope for sunny days ahead.

The NCUU Earth-centered Spirituality Circle Small Group Ministry shares a path of living in harmony with and maintaining a reverence for nature. Their goals are to help each other reclaim their lost spiritual heritage and their affinity with the earth; to help each other in pursuing their spiritual and personal growth; to provide both physical and psychological support as they are able; to have fun and not take themselves too seriously; to serve the mission of NCUU congregation by providing services and earth-centered events; to contribute to the growing awareness and understanding of the spiritual interconnections of all life; and to seek and respect the common roots of earth-centered philosophies of indigenous peoples around the world.



Today's service addressed the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



**12/13/15 UU Rev Carole Yorke: *Joseph, the Fool?***

So Joseph, the Book of Matthew tells us, his pride wounded for being made the fool (finding that Mary was pregnant by someone other than himself), at first decides to dump her for her sexual indiscretion. But, being the nice guy he was, he will do so quietly, so as to spare her the public shame. This prospect must have terrified Mary, for in Jewish culture in her day, there was no greater humiliation. Is Joseph a fool for subsequently deciding to stay with her?

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998. She has served the Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, but is now retired in Port St Lucie where

she lives with her five beautiful Pomeranians. She loves coming to visit with Nature Coast UUs.



Rev Carole addressed the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



12/06/15 Andrea Sweeney: *The Rhythm Connection/Following Our Bliss*  
(with [Ray Devries](#) and Linda Myers)

Today's speaker explained how Peace, Healing and Joy through drumming in community rhythm circles is a powerful and inspiring force that unites and satisfies a need for shared human creativity in a culture that tends to isolate us into focusing on TV, computers or cellphones. Andrea Sweeney, (with assist from Ray Devries and Linda Myers) facilitated a rhythm circle service for all to experience, providing drums and instruments from around the globe. Participation was possible for a diverse range of peoples of all ages, beliefs and religions, and thereby celebrated the UU principle of "the inherent worth and dignity of every person".

Andrea Sweeney, BFA, has attended UU for 22 years. She is an Alumna of Rhode Island School of Design, Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, a

graphic designer, an artist, lifelong music enthusiast and drum facilitator. Andrea organized and facilitated a monthly community drum circle at the Northshore UU Church of Danvers, MA and at the Haverhill UU Church in Haverhill, MA. She has hosted drumming events at UU Boston, for Spirit in Nature events and at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. Tying her art and musical interests together, Andrea recently wrote and illustrated a book for all ages titled “Running Spirit’s Drum”, which describes finding purpose in the interwoven web of all existence, with the voice of the drum as a driving force. Andrea applies her art and graphic skills to benefit culture, ecology and conservation.

[Ray Devries](#) has been drumming since age ten and is actively involved in the local drumming community, drumming at nursing homes, rehab centers, and assisted living facilities. Linda Myers initiated drumming in our area and contributes much vitality to our Citrus county arts community. Andrea, Ray and Linda look forward to sharing the drumming experience in an uplifting circle of musical creative equality.

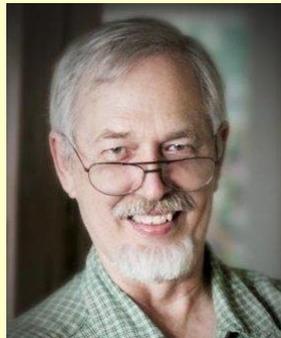
A drum circle followed the service after a brief coffee break.



11/29/15

Cliff Jackson

*Unsung Heros*



Today’s speaker shared his thoughts about why, how and what we can do to build a beloved community.

Cliff earned his bachelor’s degree in Organic Chemistry from UCF. He spent 20 years building his business producing organic salts for the food industry. In 1994 he sold the business and since then has pursued his interest in personal and spiritual growth. He has been a very active member in the UU Congregation of Ormond Beach for the last 20 years. There are so many opportunities to be of service.

Cliff addressed the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



11/22/15 [Doug Hughes](#): *The Letter, The Message and the Meaning*

In April, 2015 Doug Hughes piloted a tiny one-man gyrocopter from Gettysburg PA to Washington, DC to deliver 535 letters to Congress demanding an end to corruption. The purpose of the flight was to deliver a message on the solution to corruption. Today's message described how we can reclaim a representative government which represents the people, rather than special interests. Doug spoke to us today about the content of those letters and the solution to the epidemic corruption in our government.



Doug addressed the following Unitarian Universalist principles:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

***A special collection was held to support  
Doug's efforts to protest special interest money in politics***



## 11/15/15 Gaia and Kurtland Davies: *We Dream to Awaken to Life*

**“We dream to awaken to life because life would put us to sleep with all its demands.” Patricia Garfield.**

**[Kurtland](#) and Gaia Davies have been fascinated by dreams for decades. Both trained therapists, they have facilitated dozens of Dream Circles, which allow participants to delve deep into the meaning of their dreams, which in turns helps them to discover more meaning in their lives. In a dream circles, you can expand your self-knowledge and self-appreciation. At the same time, you can learn to understand and appreciate others in an atmosphere of trust, support and fun.**

**Between them, Kurtland and Gaia Davies have four master's degrees in psychology and counseling and a PhD in eco-psychology. But everything they really need to know, they can find in nature. The Davies had long careers in counseling, therapy, education and healthcare public relations, and spent the last 26 years giving presentations and workshop topics as varied as Healing your Inner Child, Dreamwork, Reconnecting with Nature, We all Have Many Names, We are not Broken, Eco-Psychology and Alternative Energy. Kurtland is a natural born story teller and especially loves "children's books" that have important lessons for adults!**

**Kurtland and Gaia are ardent supporters of UU principles and practices, especially in the areas of social justice, searching for our own truth and green sanctuary. They have been members of the UU in Ormond Beach for 15 years and also spend time in the Northwest, where they attend a UU church in Vancouver, WA.**

**Kurtland Davies addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):**

- 1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person**
- 2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations**
- 3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations**
- 4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning**
- 6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all**
- 7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part**



11/08/15 UU Rev Carole Yorke:

*Forgiveness, Thanks, Gratitude, Love, Kindness, and the Kitchen Sink*

We're encouraged to be grateful, especially at this time of year. Today's speaker addressed what gratitude, as well as the other listed virtues, can do for us.

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998. She has served the Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, but is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her five beautiful Pomeranians. She continues to work on her hobbies of personal training and photography. Recently she has been leading Bereavement Recovery Groups.

Rev Yorke addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

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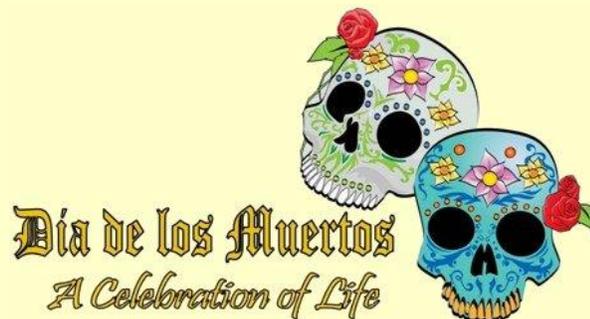
11/01/15 Dias de los Meurtos (Day of the Dead)

Today's service explored the history of the Day of the Dead, and the ways various cultures celebrate. There was an "offrenda", or altar, where articles were placed in memory of a loved one who has passed away, and an opportunity to speak the name of the deceased friend or relative. All were invited to place pictures and objects about their loved ones on the offrenda before the service.



The Earth Centered Small Group Ministry presented *Dias de los Meurtos*, a ritual that mixes celebration and mourning that both affirms life and provides an opportunity to share our grief while understanding that death is a part of life. The theme for this Day of the Dead service was “No Ordinary Time” based on sermons given by UU Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and UU Rev. Jeanne Lloyd.

This time of year has long been acknowledged throughout the world as a special time when it is possible to reach out across time to remember loved ones who have died. It is a time of symbolism and ritual that explores the fact that all who live must die. Through these rituals and symbols people are able to acknowledge the ongoing dance of life and death, generation to generation, by transforming grief and fear into gratitude for the people whose lives and love have shaped their own.

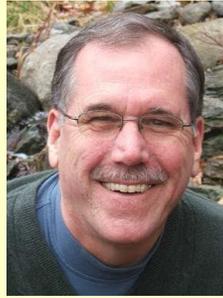




10/25/15

Rev Dr. Steve Burt

*Pious Profanity*



Retired pastor and author Steve Burt, a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Marion County, has long been FOR profanity, but opposes pious profanity. He had fun showing us the differences.

Dr. Steve Burt is a retired pastor, progressive theology professor, and author. His small-church leadership books have been regularly reprinted since they were first published in the 1980s and 1990s. When he later switched to writing dark fiction, he became the only ordained minister to ever win the coveted Bram Stoker Award, the horror genre's top writing prize, in a Final Four in the Young Readers category that included Dean Koontz, Clive Barker, and Jeff Marriott. In 2009 Connecticut Magazine featured him in an article, "The Sinister Minister." His recent novel, FreeK Week, featuring the FreeKs, psychic and paranormal teen detectives, is set in Cassadaga, Ocala, and The Villages. It won the Florida Book Festival Grand Prize, the New England Book Festival Award, the Mom's Choice gold, and the Florida Authors and Publishers silver. The Rev. Dr. Burt and his retired-teacher wife Jolyn live in The Villages and in Wells, Maine. He'll have a few of his more recent autographed books for sale after the service.

Dr. Burt addressed our fourth [Unitarian Universalist principle](#):  
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



10/18/15

Peter Freeman

*The Source of Morals*

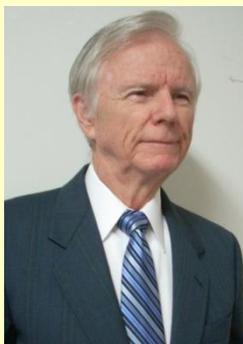
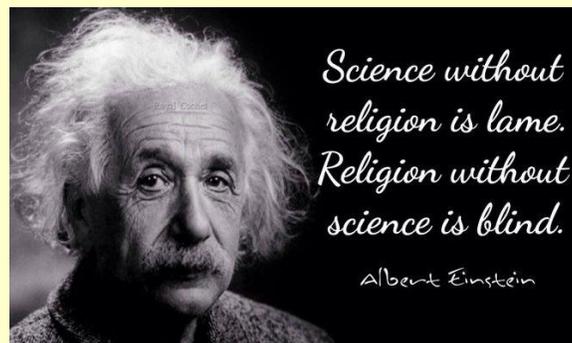


Discussions about religion and science often end up with an agreement to leave science to the scientists, but leave values and morals to religion. Today's talk showed that morals have an evolutionary basis, without the need for any supernatural authority. Peter also made a plea for a less antagonistic, more collaborative relationship between science and religion.

Peter Freeman is a Welsh engineering graduate from London University who came to the states 40 years ago. He worked at Proctor and Gamble for 35 years managing the people that designed the machines making Pampers and Luvs baby diapers. They built diaper plants all over the world! In retirement he went to "Coach For Life" coaching school and graduated as a life coach in 2000. He practiced life coaching on a not for profit basis until 2010. His hobbies in retirement include flying, sailing, scuba diving, hiking, and traveling the world. Peter and his partner Sue have been together for 13 years. Both are members of NCUU and the Unitarian Church of Rockland Maine.

Peter addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

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7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



10/11/15

Joe Wetzel

*Our Place in the Cosmos and Our Sense of Ourselves*

As Unitarian Universalists we commit to having “respect for the interdependent Web of existence.” For a couple of decades Joe Wetzel has been thinking about, studying and trying to ascertain exactly what is meant by that “Web”. What he has discovered includes many surprises. It has turned out to be a wonderful adventure and has been very uplifting to his spirit. As the title suggests, Joe believes that the Web relates us to the Cosmos, and he demonstrated that fact. Further, he explored how the Web is reflected in and connects to religion, science, social relations, literature, art and our very sense of ourselves—which indeed evolves as understanding of the Web becomes more expansive and precise.

A proud Air Force veteran, Joe went to college on the GI Bill. He had a double major: French and Spanish, minor in philosophy. He did his graduate work at the University of Kansas on a three-year fellowship to study Linguistics. He was in academia for about 15 years, teaching mainly French Literature. Joe left the university and moved to the business world in mid-life. A life-long student, with very eclectic tastes, he continues to study history, philosophy, religion and languages and is now reasonably fluent in five. Joe has been a UU for over half a century. Since his retirement in 2000, he has been researching and writing essays on various topics which, because of the way they are presented in the media, forums, articles and conversations, motivate him to critically examine them based on his background, ongoing research, and especially his UU principles. He sometimes makes bold to “set the record straight”. He likes to share what he has discovered—then hear back others’ ideas that may be different.

Joe addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



**10/04/15 UU Rev Carole Yorke: *National Coming Out Day—What it means for us in 2015***

Celebrating Pride and Coming Out is a necessary, affirmative, powerful series of events. For decades, Unitarian Universalists have actively supported full equality for people who are LGBTQ and have affirmed and celebrated members of our congregations and communities who identify as such. Our speaker is a part of this community and today she shared her story which began in 1970. In order to understand where we’ve been and where we are now, the importance of sharing our stories cannot be underestimated.

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998. She has served the Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, but is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her five beautiful Pomeranians.

Today she addressed all of our [Unitarian Universalist principles.](#)



09/27/15

Art Jones

**One Rake at a Time**  
&  
***Annual UU Water Service***

**There is so much talk and chatter in the world today. There are arguments and sometimes bitter words that can poison people's relationships. We should not forget that actions can speak louder than words. A good project can bring people together working for a common good that will foster healing. Without labor, nothing prospers.**

**As part of today's service we held our annual Water Ceremony.**

**Art Jones grew up in a Unitarian family in Upstate NY attending services in**

Schenectady. He was actively involved with the YMCA summer camp program as a camper and counselor for 12 years. He attended college in NY and Oregon and lived in Oregon for 10 years on a 400 acre ranch. He moved to Crystal River in 2007, attended Leadership Citrus in 2009 and started the *One Rake at a Time* project. He has been a member of Kings Bay Rotary since 2009 and served as their president in 2013 and 2014. *One Rake at a Time* was formed as a nonprofit organization in 2015. Art is currently active in trying to bring an aquarium to Crystal River.

Art addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principle](#):

7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



09/20/15 Amy Meek: *United Way and Our Commitment to Real, Lasting Change*

Today's speaker shared with us the ways that [United Way of Citrus County](#) is working to improve lives in our community through their three focus areas: Education, Income and Health.

Amy Meek is a native of Citrus County and as such is very passionate about positively impacting our community. Amy is a graduate of Crystal River High School and received her Bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida. She worked for many years in upper management for large wholesale banks. She is currently the CEO of the United Way of Citrus County. She has been married to her high school and college sweetheart, County Commissioner Joe Meek for 13 years and together they have two sons.



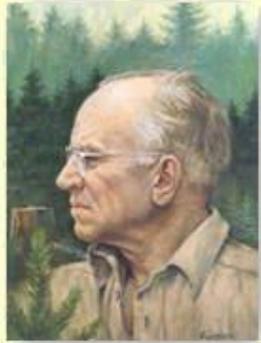
Amy addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all



09/13/15 UU Rev Marni Harmony: *A Fierce Green Fire*

With a little help from the great naturalist Aldo Leopold, Rev Marni offered a reflection on the role of animals to awaken parts of ourselves that otherwise might remain unknown. This was a service for all animal lovers.



*Aldo Leopold*

*“Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching, even when doing the wrong thing is legal.”*

Ordained in 1974, [UU Rev Marni](#) served churches in State College, PA and Brookfield, WI before being called to Orlando where she served for 20 years. She then enjoyed two interim ministries in Marietta, GA and Tarpon Springs, FL. Almost a lifelong UU, Marni received her BA from Tufts, Th.M from Boston University, MSW from University of WI, and D.Min from Columbia Seminary. Though formally "retired," she currently serves as Florida's Ministerial Settlement Representative, as a Compensation Consultant for the Southern Region, and as Vice President of the UU Retired Ministers and Partners organization. She makes her home in Orlando with her spouse Nancy, cat Zeke, dogs Finn and Chester; eats lots of vegetables and loves the Irish Whistle!

Rev Marni will address one of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):  
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



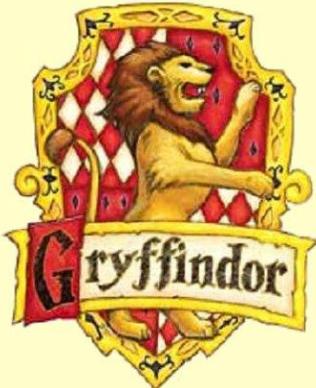
Rev. Marni Harmony



09/06/15

UU Intern Tracie Barrett-  
Welser

*We Don't All Have to be  
Gryffindor*



Unitarian Universalists are known for our commitment to social justice. But what if you're not a “get out on the front lines” kind of person?

Tracie Barrett-Welser compared the types of people we need for successful movements to the four houses in Harry Potter. The best movements have balance.

We learned how to use everyone's gifts to work effectively for justice AND how to recognize and support ALL contributing members of NCUU.



[Tracie Barrett-Welser](#) lives in Winter Haven with her husband and teenage stepson. While she has officially been a Unitarian Universalist for a little over five years, she has held beliefs in line with UU principles for most of her life. She considers herself a “UU Evangelist”, sharing the “good news” of our liberal faith. After many years of avoiding what was a very clear call to ministry, she is now a second year student at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Tracie has completed her chaplaincy internship at Florida Hospital Celebration and will soon begin her internship as the student minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County.

Ms. Tracie will address the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
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**08/30/15 Muriel Chess: *Annual Poetry Service***

Members and friends of the congregation read original and other inspiring poems. An “Open Mic” poetry reading was held after coffee and refreshments in lieu of our traditional discussion/talk back. Many came with their favorite poems to share with others.

Today’s service addressed several of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#), depending on what poems our speakers selected to read.



**08/23/15 Cathy DeWitt: *Unexpected Journeys: Resistance is Futile!***

Today’s speaker shared the personal story of her own leap into Arts in Medicine—bringing music into the healthcare environment—which was a complete detour and resulted in a rewarding career.

What we resist not only persists, but also can bring us the most valuable experiences of our lives. This includes opportunities to sing, listen to music, and practice becoming open to the messages of the Universe.



Well-versed in many musical genres, [Cathy DeWitt](#) is an award-winning singer/songwriter, pianist, guitarist, and harp therapist. She has been a Unity Music Director and touring New Thought musician for over twenty years, working with Revs. Sharon Connor, Marciah McCartney, Peggy Hostetler, Mary Masters, Bill Dodd and more. She has been a guest musician and speaker at churches, spiritual retreats and events throughout the country, and has provided music for Alan Cohen, Marianne Williamson, Wayne Dyer and others. She has been an activist for

environmental and human rights causes for many years, playing and writing songs for Save Our Springs, Veterans for Peace, Civic Media Center, Stetson Kennedy Foundation, and many other organizations and groups. She is the senior [Musician in Residence](#) for [Shands Arts in Medicine](#), having started the music program there twenty years ago and conducts workshops throughout the country on music and healing. Visit her on [Facebook](#).

Cathy addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
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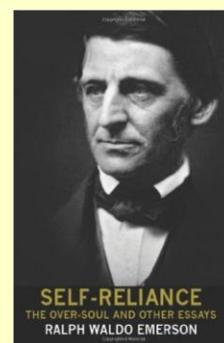
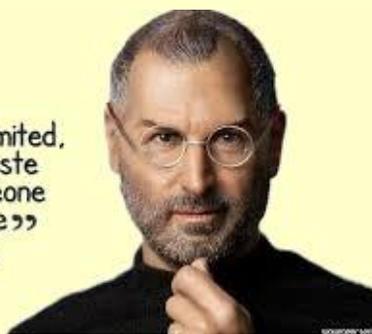


08/16/15 UU Rev Sara Zimmerman: *OH WOW OH WOW OH WOW": A Liberal, Interarts and Scientific Perspective on Steve Jobs' Last Words*

This sermon explored the topic of near death experiences and some of our human efforts to describe the indescribable. Dante Alighieri's 14th century description of Paradise has had a powerful influence on western ideas of heaven. Ralph Waldo Emerson's 19th century less pictorial but nevertheless powerful description of the Oversoul provides a humanist contrast. Recent neurological research on near death experiences satisfies the curiosity but seems not to explain it all away, leaving room in the spiritual/scientific dialog for further exploration.



“Your time is limited,  
so don't waste  
it living someone  
else's life”  
Steve Jobs



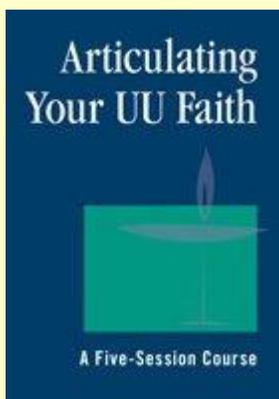
[UU Rev. Dr. Sara E. Zimmerman](#) retired in the fall of 2013 as the settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. Born and raised in south central Pennsylvania, she graduated from Hood College; earned a master's degree in comparative literature from Indiana University, Bloomington; a master of divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion; and, in 2009, a doctor of ministry degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School. Prior to ordination as a UU minister in 2001, Sara served for 20 years as a director for the alternative admissions program and lecturer in comparative literature and the arts at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A year or so ago she completed a curriculum entitled “Spirituality,

Science and Healing” that was funded in part by a grant from the UU Funding Program. Sara is a proud grandmother to Henry, 12, and Helen, 9, who live in Milwaukee.



Rev. Zimmerman addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
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08/09/15

Joan Burnett

and others

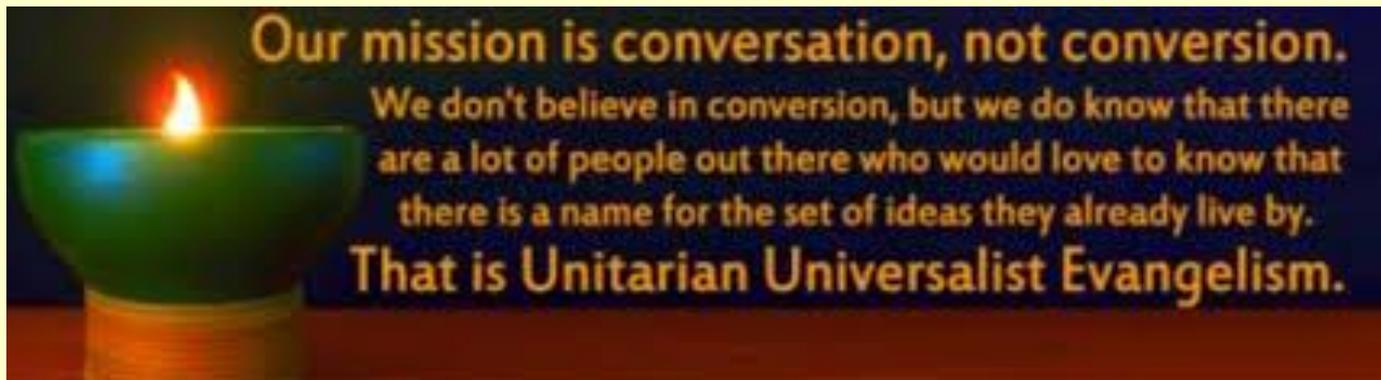
*Articulating Your UU  
Faith*



The folks who participated in the course “Articulating Your UU Faith” shared what they learned about what to say when someone asks us, “What is this Unitarian Universalism all about?” Their goal was to have us all able to respond to that question with brief, meaningful and clear answers. The many options they presented helped us feel more comfortable when describing our religious community to curious non-UUs.

Today’s “UUers” addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large



**08/02/15 Santosh Kamath: *Paradigms That Avoid False Dichotomies***

How can we incorporate mindfully into our daily lives ways of perceiving the world and functioning in it with love and unity rather than estrangement and division? What "higher" qualities within us contribute to such a vision and personal realization?

Santosh Kamath has had a wide educational background including chemistry, mathematics, aerospace engineering, and rural appropriate technology in agri/aquaculture. He continues to develop a stock/options trading system based on statistical measures. A former Atheist, Santosh now serves the Bahá'í Faith community in a variety of capacities and he aspires to leave a net "positive footprint" on the material/spiritual/social collective.

Santosh addressed all of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#)



**07/26/15 UU Rev Mary Louise DeWolf: *Rational Spirituality***

Spirituality is a term that has many meanings. Rev DeWolf explored some of these with the intent of greater understanding as a result. There is a difference between a lecture and a sermon, between factual and emotional, and between thinking and feeling. Integration of all these concepts can expand our horizons and enrich our lives.

The Reverend Mary Louise Dewolf is a second generation native Floridian. After receiving her BS in Science Education and Master of Education from

the University of Florida, she spent thirty-three years teaching biology and chemistry in the public schools of Florida, Georgia, California, England and the Florida Community College in Jacksonville. This was followed by eight years as a Co-District Executive in the Florida and Mid-South Districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association. During this time Rev. DeWolf began her preparation for ministry. She later received a MA in Religious Studies at the University of South Florida and Final Fellowship from the Unitarian Universalist Association. She served as part-time minister at Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists in Citrus Springs, Florida for seven years, retired from ministry in 2010, and was awarded Minister Emerita. Reverend Mary Louise and her husband, Bob Campbell, live in Crystal River, FL.



Rev DeWolf addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



#### **07/19/15 *The UUA General Assembly 2015***

Four members of NCUU (Joan Burnett, Bree Hill, Edie Reid, and Pam Ricker) reported on their experiences at the UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. They talked about decisions voted on by the entire assembly at plenary sessions and shared information gathered at small workshops. Having had hundreds of meetings to choose from, the four attendees presented a wide range of new ideas, new initiatives and new ways to grow our Unitarian Universalist faith.



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. The theme for GA 2015 was [Building a New Way](#).

Today's speakers will address all of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#)



07/12/15 Marcia Bailey: *Exit Plans: They Improve Our Final Scenes*

Truman Capote said "Life is a moderately good play with a badly written third act." Ms. Bailey talked about important issues to address in planning for a good final act including aging, dying, and being remembered.



Marcia Bailey is the facilitator of the Clearwater Chapter of [Compassion & Choices](#), a right-to-die advocacy group. Ms. Bailey is a retired social worker who trained staff at a nursing home, talked to patients and their families for Hospice, served on the Board of a Funeral Consumers Alliance, and led a group for bereaved individuals at a mental health center.

Marcia Bailey addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations



07/05/15 Pauline Masterton: *A Featherbed for a Falling Christian*

The title "A Featherbed for Falling Christians" comes from a description of Unitarianism in 19th century England by Dr. Erasmus Darwin, grandfather of Charles Darwin, the evolutionary scientist. His mother was a devout Unitarian, as were several other prominent scientists of the time, most prominently Joseph Priestly. Today our speaker described aspects of

Darwin's life. The issue of "faith" was also discussed, first in the context of 19th-century Darwinian scientists and then as manifested in UU principles and practices as we know them today. Other aspects of "faith" were also addressed, as experienced in more personal contexts.



Pauline Masterton was born in Chicago, confirmed as a Lutheran, and left that faith behind before she finished high school. She married her high school sweetheart, had 3 children, and earned a Master's degree in Education from the University of Chicago. She taught in elementary schools in Indiana and North Carolina and then in Tennessee as a TV teacher of Science to all 4th graders in Nashville. The family moved to Tallahassee in 1961, where she worked as an Education Project Manager and finally as an Education Policy Analyst for the state of Florida, meanwhile earning a PhD from Florida State. She became a member of the UU Church of Tallahassee in 1982 and was very active in that church. She served on the Board in several capacities and as a frequent Sunday speaker. She has been a widow since 1996 and moved to Gainesville in 2013 where she is a somewhat less-active member of the UU Fellowship of Gainesville.

Pauline Masterton addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



**06/28/15 NCUU Choir: *How Music Can Express Our Unitarian Universalist Principles***

Music can be used to express and enhance our UU principles in a very unique way, because it reaches us intellectually, emotionally and

spiritually. It is an integral part of our spiritual/religious experience.



This program was a communal offering by the members of the NCUU choir - who come every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. to rehearse music to be used regularly in our Sunday Services and for special occasions. This service addressed all of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#).



06/21/15

UU Rev Carole Yorke: *Spirituality? Really?*

When Oprah Winfrey searched for a president for her television network, she whittled down applicants with a question that made some people very uncomfortable. One woman even burst out crying. It was "what is your spiritual practice?" Winfrey clarified that she wasn't asking about religion, but about their inner relationship with themselves. "What do you do for yourself? What do you do to keep yourself centered?" These are the questions we will begin to address today.

Rev Carole's sermon addressed all of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#).

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998. She has served the Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, but is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her five beautiful Pomeranians. She continues to work on her hobbies of personal training and photography. She has just returned from a two week tour of England and Scotland. Her dogs (all five of those Pomeranians) didn't miss her as they stayed in their home in Port St Lucie. We welcome her for another rousing sermon!





Check out his beautiful  
Shore Bird Note Cards at

[www.danbirds.com](http://www.danbirds.com)

Hear his music at

[dangribbin.com](http://dangribbin.com)

06/14/15

Dan Gribben

*Feeling Small,  
Standing Tall:  
Developing Your  
Creative Confidence*



This was an interactive message in song, two of Dan's original songs and two songs by others, interspersed with encouragement to take seriously the principle which calls for "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." Creative confidence calls for faith in our fellow congregants to respond favorably to the offer of our talents, so that we might all grow spiritually and intellectually as a result of our journey together.

Dan Gribbin has retired from college teaching after 37 years. He spent the bulk of his career as professor of English at Ferrum College in Virginia, teaching writing, film, and a variety of literature courses. During the past decade, he has taught African-American Literature and American Literature at the University of Central Florida. He and his wife Martha live in Daytona Beach Shores and are members of the UUSDBA in Ormond Beach, where he serves as co-chair of the Worship Committee. They now have three grandchildren, one of whom lives within an hour and a half of their home. Blessings abound!

Dan addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations



06/07/15 Catherine Giordano: *What Ifs, If Onlys, and So Whats*

This delightful presentation was a look at the universal longing for do overs and the importance of accepting choices. Catherine addressed the apparent universal longing for do-overs and why getting a do-over for the

decisions and actions in our past would not necessarily be a good thing.

**Catherine** is a public speaker author, poet, and blogger. She speaks to corporate groups, civic and social groups, and to many UU congregations. She is a member of the University Unitarian Universalist Society in Orlando.

She is the author of several books, including *What Ifs, If Onlys, and So Whats*, a collection of essays based on her speeches. She's also had her poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction published in various periodicals and anthologies.



Read her blogs:

[News Print Poetry](#)  
[Premium Cable Reviews](#)  
[catherinegiordano.hubpages](#)

Catherine addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



05/31/15  
Eli & Bill Perras

*Singing for Change*

Today's sermon put a spin on how the power of music affects the mind to a greater extent than other forms of communication and how we use it to speak our minds on socially significant issues with favorable results.

[www.perrasmusic.com](http://www.perrasmusic.com)



The many inspired lyrics given to and interpreted by Eli, combined with Bill's bluesy finger-style guitar playing create a very uniquely modern take on true Americana music in its purest form.

Receiving much recognition for their tightly woven musical creativity, they humbly remain true to their personal values. They speak out with strong heartfelt lyrics accompanied by soulful genuine pentatonic rhythms against social injustices, corporate greed, and daily follies in everyday life. They can grip your heart, search your soul, change a mindset, or softly strike a funny bone, all the while leaving the audience with a sentiment for the common good we desire in all mankind. Bill & Eli have opened or shared the stage with many nationally recognized entertainers. They are regulars at many Florida folk music venues/festivals and frequently travel beyond the Sunshine State, sharing their inspiring music.

The Perras' addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



05/24/15 Dr. Jeffrey Nall: *Social Change through Coffee and Chocolate*

Americans love chocolate and coffee. It turns out that chocolate and coffee are not only delicious to consume, they're also good for you in a number of ways. While our purchases improve our alertness or provide us with flavonoids that reduce our risk of cardiovascular disease, they are also fostering demand for products significantly tainted by slave labor and some of the worst examples of exploitation. In this talk Dr. Nall discussed the little known evidence that much of the chocolate and coffee are improving our health while simultaneously jeopardizing the freedom and lives of hundreds of thousands around the world including many children. The good news is that consumers have the power to participate in fostering measurable change. Beyond the bad news, Dr. Nall enlightened the congregation about the fair trade movement and how everyday living can foster meaningful social change.

Dr. Nall addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all



Jeffrey Nall holds a master's of liberal studies from Rollins College and a PhD from Florida Atlantic University. He is an adjunct professor at Indian River State College where he teaches philosophy, ethics, and critical thinking. Nall is the author of *Feminism and the Mastery of Women and Childbirth* (2014).

[www.jeffreynall.com](http://www.jeffreynall.com)



05/17/15 Rev Lloyd Dunham: *Banned in Boston*

A first person telling of the highlights of the life of Theodore Parker, an early Massachusetts Unitarian.

Rev Lloyd Dunham is a retired United Church of Christ pastor. He is a Charter Member of Community Unitarian Universalist Church of New Smyrna Beach since 1997 and served as a former president of Community UU. While his roots are in the Methodist Church, he turned to Unitarian Universalism in 1962. He has been happily UU ever since! He has served congregations in Tennessee, Ohio, New York and Massachusetts, concluding with serving as interim minister at Community UU.

Rev Dunham holds a Bachelor of Art degree from West Virginia Wesleyan where he met his wife 63 years ago. He also has a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University School of Religion and a Master of Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He currently serves as a volunteer licensed massage therapist at Hospice of Volusia/Flagler.

Rev Dunham addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principle](#):

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning





05/10/15

## **NCUU Annual Mother's Day Service**

**NCUUs Mother's Day service this year was an interactive service based on an idea from Barbara Child to honor all of us who have "mothered" and those who have "mothered" us.**

**On this day that honors Mothers we had the opportunity to honor all of those who do mothering, women and men alike, who have freely and wholeheartedly given life, sustenance, and vision to us.**

**Many joined us in honoring those who have helped us to give birth to our own nurturing spirit that we may in turn mother the Earth, our communities, and all of the precious beings entrusted to us by biology, friendship, fellowship or fate.**



**05/03/15 UU Rev Dee Graham: *Listening for the Call: Discernment***

**What shall we do? How can we decide? Often when we have to make the biggest decisions it happens in the most difficult times of our lives. With so much stimulus coming at us in the digital age, how do we filter out the static and focus in on our deepest voice? Today we considered the challenges of decision-making and how we discern our true direction.**

**This September the Rev. Dee Graham will participate in the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her family's move to Florida as part of the original Spanish settlers of Saint Augustine. Although her great-great grandfather founded a Baptist church in Judson, it was Unitarian Universalism that spoke to her. Fellowshiped and ordained in 1993, Rev. Dee earned her Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She also holds a Bachelor of Science**

in Journalism from the University of Florida and a Masters of Arts in Mass Communication from the University of South Florida Saint Petersburg.

Rev Graham addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principle](#):  
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



#### 04/26/15 Mindy Simmons: Why Be a Unitarian Universalist?

As UUs we can and should bring our principles into everything we do in our lives; showing compassion and conviction of peace building in a philosophy that is striving to be 100 per cent inclusive.

[Mindy Simmons](#) has been a performing singer/songwriter for over 35 years. She has been a speaker in UU churches for 10 years.



Mindy was first introduced to Unitarian Universalism back in 2002 at SUUSI, the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. She was instantly drawn to the seven principles as the key to rising above religious dogmas and finding common ground for all people!

Today she addressed all seven of our [Unitarian Universalist principles](#).



04/19/15 Jean McCauley for UU Rev John Higgins: *What is God?*

There are many mysteries which have not been solved in our life time and perhaps will never be solved. Today we pondered the question, "What is God?" Is it a being, a mystery itself, a science which will find a "prime cause" or just a philosophical notion?



John Higgins is a graduate of Meadville/Lombard School of Theology, one of only two UU ministerial training institutions. He was ordained at the UU Church of Amherst in Williamsville, NY. He has served at two UU churches in suburbs of Buffalo, NY and moved to Florida where he served at Friendship Fellowship of Pineda in Rockledge where he retired and became Minister Emeritus. Before entering UU ministry he served all stages of education from a one room schoolhouse in Tasmania to first Dean of Teacher Education in Australia. He has lived and taught in six different countries and six different states. He is married to the former Jacqueline Portland. Together they have two children, Michael, a pilot for Federal Express and Dr. Cynthia Higgins, a 4H agent in Columbia County, Florida. Jean McCauley is a member of NCUU and will be reading Rev Higgins' sermon in his absence.

UU Rev Higgins' sermon addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



04/12/15

The NCUU Annual Business Meeting was well-attended by Members and Friends.



Annual Business Meeting

In preparation for our annual meeting, today's brief service addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large





**04/05/15 NCUU Earth-centered Spirituality Circle Small Group Ministry: *Celebrating the Greening of the Earth***

**As we celebrated the greening of the earth and the Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion we contemplated that we are made from this earth, our dreams are made from this earth and all that we know speaks to us through this earth. We who are both spirit and matter here on this earth discover ourselves-no greater or lesser than anything around us but part of the whole. In this we find that we have a purpose and a place within the unfolding process of Nature symbolized by the unfolding of the flowers.**

**The NCUU Earth-centered Spirituality Circle Small Group Ministry shares a path of living in harmony with and maintaining a reverence for nature. Their goals are to help each other reclaim their lost spiritual heritage and their affinity with the earth; to help each other in pursuing their spiritual and personal growth; to provide both physical and psychological support as they are able; to have fun and not take themselves too seriously; to serve the mission of NCUU congregation by providing services and earth-centered events; to contribute to the growing awareness and understanding of the spiritual interconnections of all life; and to seek and respect the common roots of earth-centered philosophies of indigenous peoples around the world.**

**The NCUU Earth-centered Spirituality Circle Small Group Ministry addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):**

**7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part**



03/29/15 Citizens for Informed Teens: *Social Justice at Work*

The Congregational Study/Action Issue passed at the 2012 General Assembly of the UUA was "Reproductive Justice - Expanding Our Social Justice Calling". Members of the steering committee of Citizens For Informed Teens (CFIT) reported on the work being done in Citrus County to improve the sex education in our schools and thereby improve the health and future of the next generation.

Today's presentation from representatives of Citizens For Informed Teens (CFIT) addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large



03/22/15

UU Rev Brock Leach

*What Do We Hold  
Most Sacred?*



We pride ourselves on being inclusive in all the best ways. We are inclusive of people, theologies, ideas, and even in the spectrum of justice issues we take up. Our inclusivity infuses our religious tapestry with richness, diversity and color. But once in a generation there are tipping point moments that call us to focus our collective energies. And there are some issues so central, so sacred to our tradition that we UU's are specifically called to lead the way. Our proudest moments have been in responding in critical moments for abolition, suffrage, civil rights and marriage equality. Today we'll explore why [climate justice](#) is the moral imperative of this particular moment. Our tradition compels us to respond with truly radical inclusiveness.

Below are two websites pertaining to Rev Leach's sermon:

[COMMIT2RESPOND](#) What will YOU do to take action for climate justice?  
[2015 Florida Interfaith Climate Conference](#)

Join us April 10-11 in greater Orlando for gathering with other spiritually focused persons who want to act in healing the Earth. We know from within the time has come for action. Where to start? What to do? Who will join us?

The 2015 climate conference will address those questions. Click [here](#) to register for the conference and to get more information .

[Rev. Brock Leach](#) is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and vice president of mission, strategy and innovation at the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \(UUSC\)](#). UUSC's mission is to advance human rights around the world by becoming effective allies with those who are the most marginalized. Brock's ministry is centered on strengthening the agency's impact and launching the UU College of Social Justice, a program designed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice. Prior to seminary, Brock spent 24 years with PepsiCo, having served as president and CEO of its Frito-Lay North America and Tropicana divisions and as Chief Innovation Officer for the corporation where he had responsibility for corporate new product platforms and the corporation's global health and wellness initiative. He received his Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, his MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago, and his Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

Rev Leach addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



03/15/15 Greg Sedbrook: *The Dance of Life*

Dancing has been a part of our humanity from the start. It probably had more to do with original religions than words. Today's speaker gave some history with overviews on some of the varieties and styles of dance we may not have much exposure to. He demonstrated Bavarian dance performance normally associated with Oktoberfest celebrations. He also provided some of its history as it relates to the topic.

Greg is among the top Polka dancers in the US. He has performed with a Bavarian dance group for Oktoberfest for many years and enjoys everything from polka, to disco, 50's/60's, Latin, country western, and ballroom dancing. His educational background is in creativity and future studies, with some anthropology and anthropology of "Play". Currently he is digging into multisensory anthropology and multiple intelligences around the world.





03/08/15 Renee Zenaida: *Empowering Women: Empowering Humanity*

Margaret Mead famously said “Every time we liberate a woman, we liberate a man.” In our time, the impact of liberation—especially when won through the education of girls, and boys—is even more far reaching than that. Despite a political war being waged against women’s issues, women’s voices are being heard, and listened to, more than at any time in history. We celebrated International Women’s Day by asking “How do we as Unitarian Universalists raise our voices in support of this legacy of empowerment?”

Renée Zenaida has a background in writing and lists a wide range of day jobs, from cook to technical editor. Raised Catholic, she claims twenty minutes of solitude deep in the Fakahatchee Strand as the most spiritual experience of her life, so far. Seven or so years ago, at the insistence of a dear couple, Renée visited a Unitarian Universalist fellowship “in the hopes” that one visit would satisfy her friends. A regular at the Gainesville fellowship ever since, she found her passion: exploring Unitarian Universalism in Sunday services and milestone celebrations throughout Florida.

Renée addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all



#MakeItHappen



03/01/15 UU Rev Katy Korb: *Believe It! (or Not)*

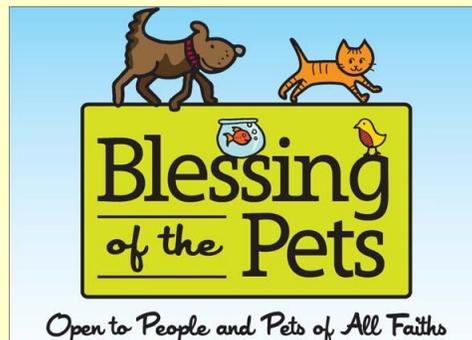
We often find it very difficult to explain our faith to those who aren't familiar with it. This sermon looked at the essence of our faith, why it seems so difficult to explain and how we can do it better.



Rev. Kathleen Korb was born and raised in St. Petersburg, FL and attended Stetson University in DeLand, majoring in English and minoring in mathematics and education. She graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was ordained in Sharon, MA in 1979. She has served churches in New London, CT, Farmington Hills, MI, New Orleans, LA, Naples, FL and St. Petersburg where she retired last year.



02/22/15 UU Rev Carole Yorke: *Blessing of the Animals*



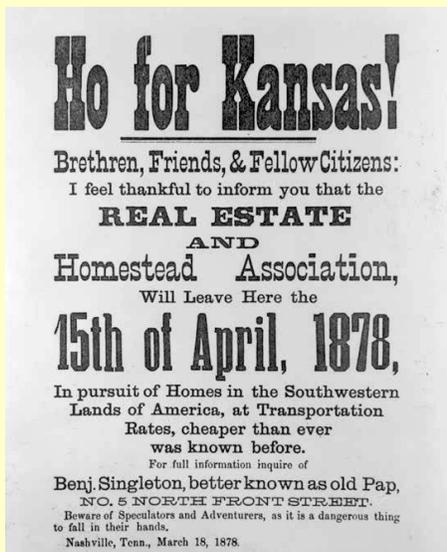
Religious people everywhere have asked the question, “Shall we praise the creator or praise the creation?” Most have answered, “Praise the creator,” and have offered images: Zeus, Yahweh, Jesus, to be praised. But Unitarian Universalists, along with mystics and nature lovers of all faiths, offer another answer: “Praise the creation! Praise this wonderful world and all of its diverse life and all of its amazing beauty and all of its precious love. Praise the creation, and you will do well by it. Praise the

creation, and whatever creator there is will be honored. Praise the creation, love it fiercely, worship it well! This morning we praised the creation with a lighthearted but deeply loving time to cherish the animals that are part of our daily lives.

Rev Carole Yorke has been a Unitarian Universalist minister in Florida since 1998. She has served the Spirit of Life UUs, UU Church in Stuart, and First UU Congregation of the Palm Beaches, but is now retired in Port St Lucie where she lives with her five beautiful Pomeranians. She is working on her hobbies of photography, target shooting and trike riding. Most recently, she has been spending time with a personal trainer getting in shape for a trip to the UK in the spring. We welcome her once again to our pulpit for another rambunctious sermon!

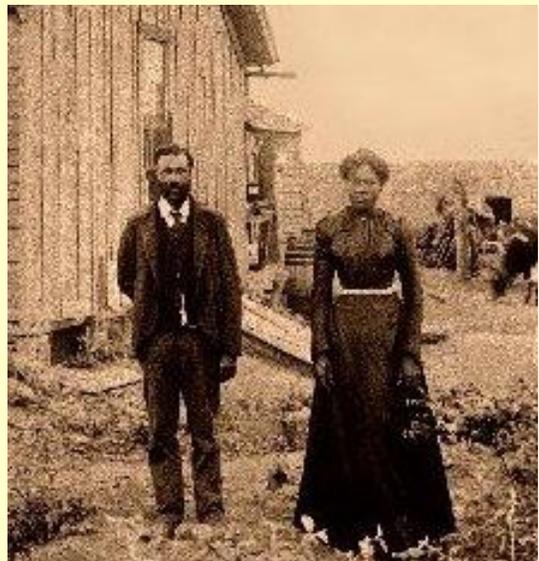
Rev Carole will address the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



02/15/15  
Kathy Dobronyi

*Exodusters:  
Black Migration  
to the West*



“Exodusters” was the name given to African Americans who migrated from states along the Mississippi River to Kansas in the late 1870's. Fourteen years after the Emancipation Proclamation, thousands of ex-slaves fled the South. They were headed for the West and the homesteading lands of Kansas. The “Exoduster” migration was a genuine folk movement.

Kathy is a high school history teacher. When she taught the American Civil War she wanted to know what happened to the ex-slaves. At the Black History Museum in

Denver she first heard about the “Exodusters” and their quest for freedom and for land to live the American Dream.



Kathy Dobronyi addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

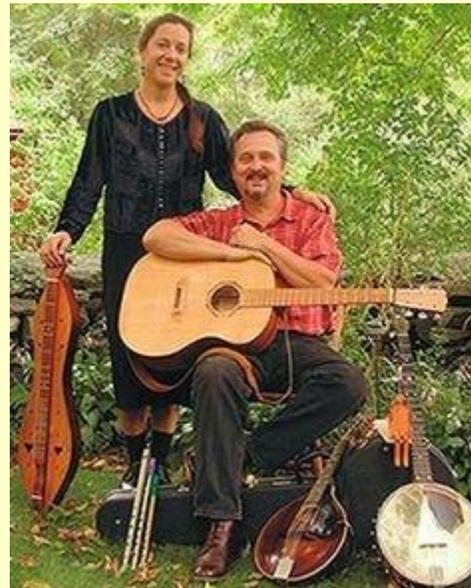


02/08/15

Atwater/Donnelly Duo

*Exploring Our Spirituality through  
American Folk Music*

*Aubrey and Elwood presented  
a variety of traditional and contemporary  
American and Celtic Folk songs  
as a means to contemplate  
and celebrate  
the complexities  
of love, peace, and light.*



Award-winning, internationally acclaimed duo, [Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly](#) present delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs and percussive dance. Elwood and Aubrey blend gorgeous harmonies and play an astonishing array of instruments including guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, limberjacks, and other surprises including a thrilling interpretation of freestyle Appalachian clog dancing. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood explain song origins to give more relevance to the material. Married since 1989, Aubrey and Elwood have performed widely in the

United States and abroad and their twelve recordings receive international airplay.



**Atwater-Donnelly**

↑ Traditional American Folk Music & Dance ↓

A local House Concert was held this same day from 3:00 - 5:00  
Click [here](#) for more information



02/01/15

Van Hoda

*Blue-Gold:*

*Reflections on the Condition  
of Florida's Natural Springs*



This presentation offered a brief introduction to the ecology of springs, karst topography, and the cultural/economic value of these natural gems. We discussed the impending threats to natural springs, potential solutions, and touched on the current political atmosphere surrounding water issues. Additionally, Van shared his own personal spiritual journey with spring's ecology, relating his experience to the work of Mircea Eliade.

Van is a graduate of the University of South Florida where he received degrees in Religious Studies and Classical Civilizations. His deep love for Florida's natural springs has led him to consider himself a "born-again Floridian" and environmentalist. He has served as both an intern and volunteer for the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute. His research interests include nature spirituality and feminist theology. Van is currently working as a Career Resource Specialist at Gulf Coast Academy of

## Science and Technology.

Van Hoda addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



01/25/15 Laura Pedersen: *The Good Life*

In general terms *The Good Life* is a well-lived, meaningful, fulfilled existence. But how can we set about creating this among the unavoidable practicalities that real lives involve—the challenges, setbacks, accidents, good luck, bad luck, demands made by others and our own limitations?

[Laura Pedersen](#) is an author, playwright, and former New York Times columnist. She's a lifelong UU and currently an active member at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in Manhattan.



Laura addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning



01/18/15 Connie Barlow: *Stories Big and Small*

Science writer and UU Connie Barlow surveyed how stories big and small — from the evolutionary epic given by science to the stories of hardship borne by our ancestors — are crucial for challenging times.

Connie Barlow is the author of four popular science books that bridge the science of evolution and meaning. Her 1997 book, [Green Space Green Time: The Way of Science](#) is a humanist account of religious naturalism as it relates to an evolutionary and ecological worldview. It was excerpted in the December 1998 issue of UU World magazine.

Since 2002 Connie and her husband Michael Dowd have been traveling advocates for an evolutionary and deep-time view of humanity and the challenges of our time. Their work in UU contexts was the cover story of UU World magazine spring of 2006. [TheGreatStory.org](#) is Connie's main website, where the epic of evolution is central. Lately, she has been in the news as an advocate for helping trees move north as climate begins to shift rapidly.



Connie addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles](#):

- 4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- 7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part



01/11/15 UU Rev Mary Louise DeWolf:

*Celebrating the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.*



Today's sermon was about remembering the time of segregation in the South, the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and the work yet to be done for freedom and justice for all.

The Reverend Mary Louise DeWolf is a second generation native Floridian. After receiving her BS in Science Education and Master of Education from the University of Florida, she spent thirty-three years teaching biology and chemistry in the public schools of Florida, Georgia, California, England and the Florida Community College in Jacksonville. This was followed by eight years as a Co-District Executive in the Florida and Mid-South Districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association. During this time Rev. DeWolf began her preparation for ministry. She later received a MA in Religious Studies at the University of South Florida and Final Fellowship from the Unitarian Universalist Association. She served as part-time minister at Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists in Citrus Springs, Florida for seven years, retired from ministry in 2010, and was awarded Minister Emerita. Reverend Mary Louise and her husband, Bob Campbell, live in Crystal River, FL.



Rev DeWolf addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all



01/04/15 Linda Myers: *Universality of Kwanzaa Principles*

This year NCUU's Kwanzaa celebration focused on the principles and the symbols of this African- American (not religious) holiday. In the past three years we have learned about the diaspora, the history and meaning of the celebration. Today we learned how similar some of the Kwanzaa principles are to our own UU principles. The NCUU Earth-Centered Small Group Ministry decorated the altar. This fun and educational event was open to the public, visitors and family.



Linda Myers and Edie Reid lead the service. Both are members of the Kwanzaa committee that produces the public event at the old courthouse in Inverness.



To help celebrate and illustrate the principles a local musical duo, Shades of Grey, performed well-known and original songs.

Today's service addressed the following [Unitarian Universalist principles:](#)

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all